CHCC to deploy CORE, mobile clinic on Rota today. PAGE 5
Forming tropical disturbance to pass through Marianas. PAGE 10

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, second from left, signs the letter to President Donald J. Trump requesting a major disaster declaration for the CNMI. Looking on are Federal Emergency Management Agency federal coordinating officer for the CNMI Willie G. Nunn, third from left, Rep. Angel A. Demapan, leftmost, House Ways and Means chairman, and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, rightmost.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TO ADDRESS MAJOR ISSUES AFTER MANGKHUT

Trump asked for 2nd 'disaster declaration'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has sent a second letter to the White House, asking President Trump to declare a major disaster for the CNMI following the onslaught brought by Typhoon Mangkhut last week. The letter was coursed through federal coordinating officer Willie Nunn of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Torres signed the letter yesterday at the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management on Capital Hill. He then turned it over to Nunn, who will then send it to the White House as FEMA is the lead agency overseeing Rota's relief efforts.

The major disaster declaration was the second letter that the administration sent to Trump after the emergency declaration request they made on

See TRUMP on Page 4

Tick-tock, tick-tock on budget

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres has 10 days to act on budget bill

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres only has 10 days to review the $258.1-million fiscal year 2019 budget when it reaches his desk, with both the House and Senate passing the budget in emergency sessions last Wednesday.

The back-to-back legislative sessions came after almost four days of marathon meetings by a joint House and Senate conference committee that worked from last Friday and through the weekend to come up

See TICK-TOCK on Page 4

CUC warns of higher levels of PFOS and PFOA

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has detected levels of PFOS and PFOA that exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion in a limited area of its drinking water system.

PFOS refers to perfluorooctane sulfonate and PFOA is perfluorooctanoic acid—human-made substances that are not naturally found in the environment..

The affected area includes the

See CUC on Page 4

Arrivals in Aug. dip 7 pct. but Japan posts uptick

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 56,548 visitors in August 2018, compared to 61,026 visitors received in August 2017—a slight reduction of 7 percent. Total visitor arrivals to the Marianas for the fiscal year are 6 percent lower compared to the same period last year.

Buoyed by 28 summer charter

See ARRIVALS on Page 4

DELEGATE DEBATE DONNA LIWAG RIVERA

Incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and his challenger in the November election, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), face off in a debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Marianas College last night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The Gubernatorial Debate featuring incumbent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his challenger, former governor Juan N. Babauta, is slated for the following Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2018.

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A man opens fire at his co-workers, seriously wounding three people before being shot.
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ASIA
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been re-elected as the Japanese prime minister.
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LIFE & STYLE
Widowed father of four writes a book about *Finding Good* in tragedy.
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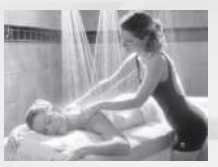
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MVA: Russia market still holds potential

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority stills maintains a representative office in Russia because of strategic reasons, according to MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion.

"Our Russia market has seen better days, of course," said Concepcion in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for information about the Russian market.

Concepcion said MVA feels the Russia market still holds potential to the CNMI's tourism industry because East Russia is very close to the CNMI.

He said Russian citizens can visit the CNMI visa-free, which is a huge selling point because the Commonwealth is the only part of the U.S. that allows Russians to visit without a visa.

Concepcion said the Russia market still has tourists that are the longest staying and highest spending per capita. "They are a coveted market all over the world," he said.

At present, Korea takes the lead of the CNMI's market share at 48 percent, followed by China at 38 percent, Japan at 7 percent, and the remaining markets such as Russia make up the remaining 7 percent.

In September 2017, MVA joined the Far East Travel & Education Show in Russia's Far East dedicated to tourism and education specialist, as part of MVA's number of activities to keep the CNMI fresh in the minds of Russians.

Last February, MVA announced that it was expecting an increase in Russian tourism arrivals this spring with Jeju Air's new travel promotion from Vladivostok to the Marianas via a quick transit through Seoul.

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Kilili gets 'Red Line' from White House

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) unveiled Wednesday a gift he got from the White House—framed documents of the first and last pages of his H.R. 5956 that President Trump enacted into law, plus the pen that Trump used to sign the bill into law.

Called the "Red Line," it commemorates the passage of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 that extended the Commonwealth's foreign worker program by 10 years beyond 2019, among other effects of the new law.

"[The White House] usually gives the red line and the pen [used for signing the legislation] to the person responsible for the bill," said Sablan.

"This legislation gives the Marianas the workforce that it needs. The difference with this bill is that it is more restrictive… When a position opens up and people apply for the position, if there is really a U.S. worker that is qualified and able, then that worker should get that job," he said.

The document, which Sablan unwrapped at his congressional office in Susupe, also included the pen Trump used to sign H.R. 5956into law.

Trump signed H.R. 5956 as introduced by U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) on the wee hours of July 25, 2018. Sablan co-sponsored the bill.

Prior to the introduction of H.R. 5956, Sablan was working with U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on S. 2325, a legislation that was similar in intent to H.R. 5956. Murkowski introduced S. 2325 in the U.S. Senate on Jan. 18, 2018.

S. 2325 successfully found its way out of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, chaired also by Murkowski, in the form of a substitute

The U.S. House parliamentarian noted that the changes to S. 2325 should be considered revenue-generating, as the bill contains increased fees as well as additional fees that the U.S. Senate inserted into the legislation.

The U.S. House scrapped S. 2325 in its entirety and reintroduced it as H.R. 5956 through Bishop, with Sablan co-sponsoring the bill. Congress passed the new bill in late June 2018.

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Kilili blocks $700 CW fee increase

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has blocked a Trump administration move to charge a new fee for Commonwealth-Only Transitional Worker permits.

Working behind the scenes over the last several weeks, as the House and Senate negotiated the fiscal year 2019 appropriation for the U.S. Department of Labor, Sablan argued against adding another cost for Marianas businesses.

"This could have been as much as $700 extra for each CW permit," Sablan said. "The Trump administration wanted full cost recovery for the temporary labor certification now required by the U.S. Workforce Act. They pegged the cost at $9 million, to be split among the 12,500 CW permits the U.S. Workforce Act provides next year.

"That is a significant, additional cost I did not want our businesses to have to pay. So, I did everything I could to block it—and I succeeded."

The U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218, requires every employer who wants to apply for a CW permit to first obtain a temporary labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor. The agency must certify that no U.S. worker is able and available for the job the CW worker will fill.

"The labor certification is one of many ways the U.S. Workforce Act protects our local workers from unfair competition from cheaper foreign labor," Sablan explained. "It is the same certification employers must get, if they want to apply for H-2B visas for temporary workers. But there is no charge for the H-2B foreign labor certification.

"I do not know why Republicans decided to target Marianas businesses like this. Fortunately, I stopped them."

The Labor Department was one of the federal agencies asked for input by the congressional working group that negotiated the U.S. Workforce Act. "We met on March 5, three days before Sen. Murkowski's committee marked up the bill," Sablan recalled. "Labor had an opportunity at that meeting to ask for authority to charge a fee and they did not.

"Of course, I would have said no to the fee in the working group, too," Sablan added.

"In the working group, I had already whittled a proposed $150 anti-fraud fee down to $50 to protect our local businesses. They can only absorb so much at one time."

The Trump Labor Department has been pressing for authority to charge the new fee over the last several weeks, as the House and Senate negotiated appropriations for the Labor Department for fiscal year 2019.

"When the Congressional Budget Office reported the costs associated with the U.S. Workforce Act, as they generally have to do when a bill is passed, there was no new cost for the Labor Department," said Sablan. "In fact, because of the bar on claims of asylum, CBO reported that the Workforce Act saves the federal government money.

"Nevertheless, it is important that Labor has what it needs to implement the U.S. Workforce Act," Sablan said. "We do not want any delays in getting temporary labor certifications to businesses, when they start applying next year.

"What I recommended—and what is now included in Section 118 of the appropriation—is for the Labor Department to take unobligated funds from another account, about $8.25 million. That should give them what they need to process the new labor certifications without costing Marianas businesses."

The conference report on the combined Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, H.R. 6157, was filed last Friday. The Senate approved the bill on Tuesday and the House is expected to pass it next week. The President has until Oct. 1 to sign the bill into law. ***(PR)***

TICK-TOCK

From Page 1

with a compromise version late Monday afternoon.

A few hours after the House and Senate passed the House Bill 20-173 or the CNMI Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2019, the bill was transmitted to the Governor's Office. Last fiscal year's budget amounted to $236.7 million. Next fiscal year's budget—at $258.1 million—shows a $21.4-million increase.

Torres has until Sept. 30 to review and enact the bill before the start of fiscal year 2019 on Oct. 1, to prevent a government shutdown.

The CNMI 2019 budget again went into a conference committee after the House, voting 16-1, rejected the Senate version of the bill in last week's session.

The conference committee was composed of House Ways and Means Committee chair Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan), Rep. BJ Attao (Ind-Saipan), and alternate Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate Vice President Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota), Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), and alternate Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan).

Demapan, who introduced the bill, said the budget is a result of four days of meetings by the conference committee and both panels finally met halfway at around 5pm on Monday.

"What we have before us is [a bill] which we believe represents a compromise budget package that seeks the best needs of the Commonwealth by assuring all services and programs are adequately funded," said Demapan.

Hofschneider added: "We [conference committee] feel that this product is palatable for us. It is a compromise bill that we can finally hand it over to the governor for review and signature."

All 19 House members present voted to pass the final budget measure while the eight senators in the Senate chamber duplicated the feat a few minutes after their colleagues acted on the bill.

Rep. Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) and Senate vice president Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) were excused.

Key highlights

The key highlights of the budget saw significant increases for the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Northern Marianas College, the Medicaid Reimbursement program, and for the municipalities of Tinian and Rota.

PSS is allocated $43.2 million from the general fund for the coming fiscal year—an increase of $6.8 million from last year's budget. PSS is also going to receive an additional $3.2 million from earmarks and outside sources, for a total of 46.4 million.

CHCC will have $9.1 million, with $4.9 million coming from earmarks and outside sources, while $4.2 million will come from the general fund. Last fiscal year, CHCC just got $708,000. Included in CHCC's budget allocation is $2 million for uncompensated care.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CUC

From Page 1

following villages: Chalan Laulau, ;Hying, Chalan Kiya, As Terlaje, Kanat Tabla, Fina Sisu, and parts of Gualo Rai, As Lito and As Perdido.

CUC is advising consumers in these areas to avoid ingesting the water at this time until the concentrations of PFOS and PFOA are below the health advisory level.

Consumers should not drink tap water, cook with tap water, or make ice for consumption with tap water.

CUC is making this advisory action to help the affected population limit their lifetime exposure to these chemicals.

History

On May 19, 2016, EPA issued new nationwide drinking water health advisories regarding PFOS and PFOA. These health advisories are based on the latest science available and help local water systems and regulatory agencies take appropriate steps to address PFOA and PFOS if needed.

PFOS and PFO have been used in commercial goods (carpets, clothing, furniture, paper packaging for food) and in materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains such as cookware. They are also used in firefighting foams at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer.

While consumer products are a large source of human exposure to these chemicals, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have entered and contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

EPA has established lifetime health advisories of 70 parts per trillion for combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. EPA health advisories include a margin of protection from adverse health effects when consumed at these levels over a lifetime. ***(PR)***

TRUMP

From Page 1

the same day Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall on Rota. The emergency declaration was to allow FEMA and other federal agencies to assist them while the second letter is for funding purposes.

Nunn praised Torres and his administration for being proactive in planning ahead even before Mangkhut's devastating winds battered the CNMI, most specially the southern island of Rota. "We're here for the letter of request because you guys are very proactive. We worked together to get the joint assessment done. …It's a positive thing to see that this was accomplished in less than 10 days."

Mangkhut's over 130mph winds affected 738 residents, with 11 homes on Rota totally destroyed while 42 suffered major damages and 296 minor ones. Saipan had 47 residents that were affected while Tinian had the least with 29.

Torres said the declaration of emergency was signed after the assessment they made with the help of FEMA, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and other local agencies. "The declaration includes the entire CNMI. There are so many people and entities that need a lot of credit for this."

He said that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., as of yesterday, is close to restoring the power on the island to 100 percent as the employees and other personnel are working hard to replace the damaged weather heads while the Red Cross also plays a great role in distributing goods to the people of Rota.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who represented the Legislature, said the people of Rota appreciate all the help that was provided them.

A photo posted on social media, however, showed an American Red Cross notice to a homeowner on Rota that a caseworker had gone there but there was nobody at home. There was a blank space where the caseworker was supposed to leave a telephone number for the homeowner to call but it had been left blank. According to the comment on the picture,"Lucky, I don't really need assistance but I cannot imagine the frustration and despair that other residents may have…"

Humanitarian parolees to meet Sunday

All foreign workers under the humanitarian parole program will be having a meeting at 2:30pm on Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza to discuss issues that concern their status in the CNMI.

More than 2,000 guest workers in the CNMI were granted humanitarian parole for various reasons, a status that they received during the transition period when Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 was enacted in 2009.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued humanitarian paroles to foreign workers who were left without employment status. These workers either had minor children who are U.S. citizens or were given transitional conditional permits (umbrella permits).

The meeting is to try to submit a petition to USCIS to allow foreign workers under the program to continue working for 240 days while their papers are being processed.

Foreign workers under the program have to stop working while their documents are being processed. Most of them will be renewing their papers next month. Others had submitted their application for renewal way ahead of the date of expiration.

The group is asking Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to assist them in asking USCIS to grant their request to continue working while their papers are being processed. ***(Jon Perez)***

ARRIVALS

From Page 1

flights, arrivals from Japan posted a 2-percent uptick in August. Although arrivals are expected to again taper off after the summer season, daily flights from Japan to Saipan are anticipated to be launched by Skymark Airlines in 2019. Meanwhile, the MVA is aggressively promoting travel to Saipan from Japan via Seoul with enhanced marketing and new travel packages offered by major travel agencies, including JTB and H.I.S.

"We're pleased to see the results of our negotiations with airline partners for charter flights bringing a boost in visitor arrivals from Japan last month," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "This is a good sign that there is still interest in and demand for the Marianas in Japan. Meanwhile, Skymark Airlines continues their preparations for launching direct daily service to Saipan. An announcement will be forthcoming. We all eagerly await the full restoration of the Japan market."

Arrivals from Korea dropped 12 percent to 27,350 visitors, yet the country continues to retain its position as the top performing source market. The decline is largely due to fewer flights than in August 2017 from both Seoul-Incheon and Busan. To capitalize on summer travel, Jeju Air launched daily charter flights from Seoul-Incheon from Aug. 3. T'way Air will operate additional charter flights with a combined 1,500-plus seats from Sept. 21-29 during Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving holiday week. The Marianas continues to face steep competition from regional destinations so the MVA has aggressively increased promotions to market Rota, Tinian and Saipan as a preferred destination for Korean visitors.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CHCC to send CORE group, mobile clinic to Rota today

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. would be deploying an outreach clinic to Rota today.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said yesterday that they would also be sending a group of volunteers to assist Rota residents after Typhoon Mangkhut hit the island two weeks ago.

CHCC would be setting up a mobile clinic by the Sinapalo Youth Center from 9:30am to 5pm today.

"We want to be able to reach out to individuals who are delaying their care to come and access these medical services," Muña said, adding that one thing she observed from 2015's Typhoon Soudelor was that residents put off seeking medical assistance to prioritize other things such as debris collection.

According to Muña, members of the Community Outreach Recovery Efforts would accompany the CHCC mobile clinic on Rota.

The one-day clinic, along with the members of the CORE, would go out to homes and urge Rota residents to see their healthcare provider.

Muña said the decision to send the mobile clinic to Rota was made after the result of a Centers for Disease Control survey. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Torres re-appoints CEC chair pro tem Sablan

Commonwealth Election Commission chair pro tem Jesus I. Sablan was re-appointed yesterday as CEC commissioner representing Saipan and the Northern Islands.

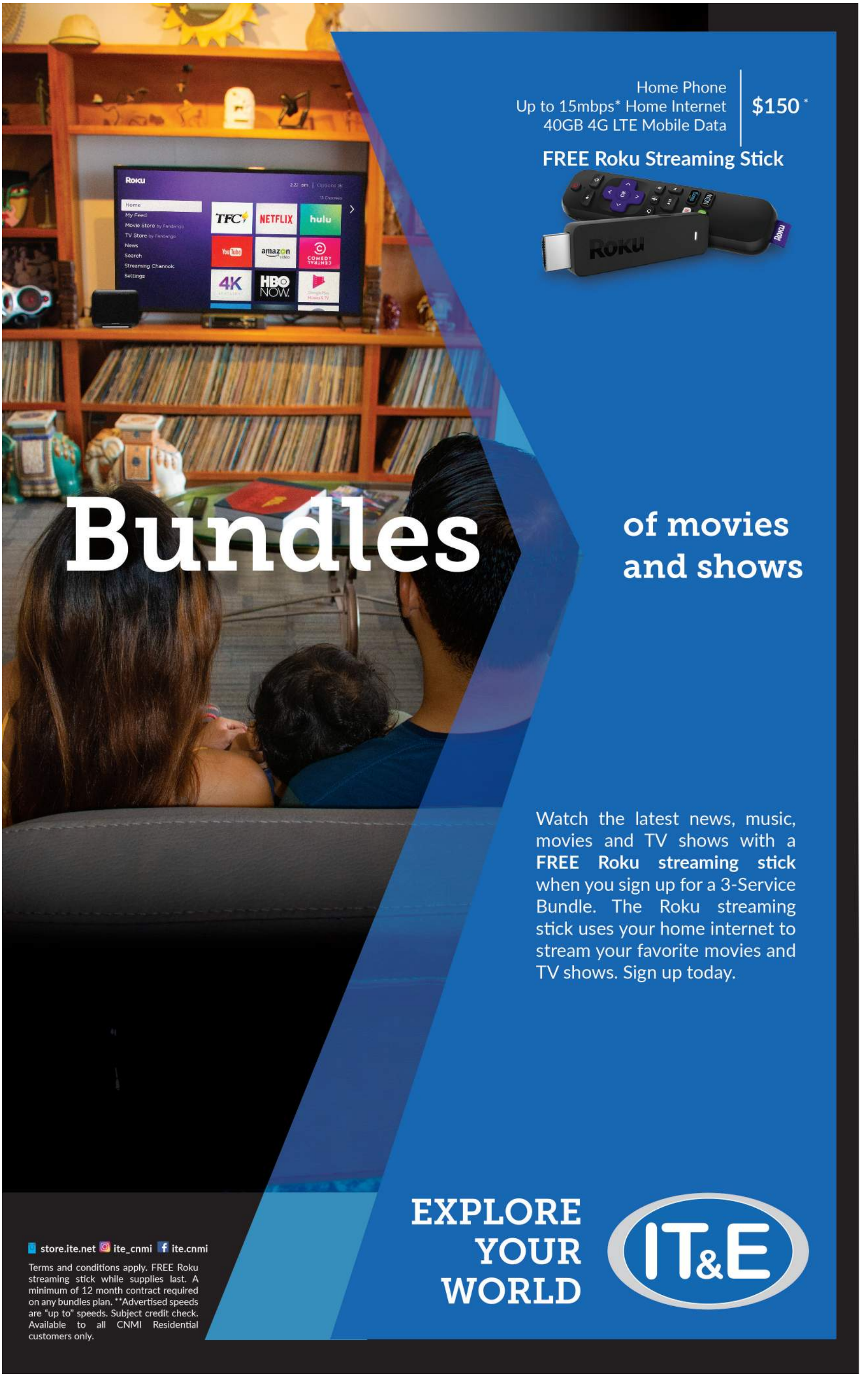
CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' reappointment letter for Sablan was hand-delivered yesterday to their office.

Igitol said Sablan accepted the re-appointment and stated that he will turn in his papers to the Governor's Office for processing.

Sablan's re-appointment needs Senate's confirmation.

Sablan's third four-year term as commissioner will expire on Oct. 27, less than two weeks before the Nov. 6 general election.

Sablan was first appointed as CEC commissioner in 2007. He has been serving as chairman pro tem because CEC has no chairperson following the expiration of the term of former chair Frances M. Sablan in August 2017. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Torres: Proactive approach helping Rota recover

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that planning ahead and the collaboration of various local and federal agencies helped the island of Rota return to normal everyday life after being hit by Typhoon Mangkhut last week.

Rota is still recovering from the devastation brought by Mangkhut's over 130mph winds, which brought down power lines and damaged homes, but the government had already planned ahead and sent personnel to the island even before the typhoon arrived.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in coordination with the National Weather Service Guam, monitored and tracked the weather disturbance before it became a typhoon, giving constant updates about its projected path and time of arrival.

Even before Mangkhut hit the island, local Homeland and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services personnel were already on Rota, together with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel who brought with them bucket trucks and other equipment. Military personnel from the Joint Region Marianas were also deployed as soon as the weather improved.

Torres said that although he would love to say that they have a timeline set for Rota to fully recover from the storm, they are addressing the issues with the help of their federal counterparts—especially the Federal Emergency Management Agency—and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

"This is the beauty of recovery. You actually see progress along the way. What we do is we look at the total issue, then we come up with a game plan on how to address that. Through our actions, we see progress. I hope that we've been exceeding expectations on the recovery efforts," said Torres.

"For example, we're hoping to energize the hospital in two days [but] we did it in one. The CUC guys went up everyday. Pulling those lines—power and telephone—was not easy. So thank you to each and everyone of them that go up 30 to 40 feet up there."

Some services were also quick to be resolved with Bank of Guam and the Mobil gas station resuming their operations a few days after the storm. As of press time, Rota's power is 95 percent restored while the island has 100 percent water distribution.

Torres said some of the CUC linemen that worked in restoring the power lines were also from Rota. "They left their families and some have also damage in their houses. In fact, when we're doing the assessment, we saw a house that had a damaged rooftop. I asked if there's somebody there so we can assess the damage, the neighbor said that it was a house of one of the line crew and that person is not at home since the typhoon. These are the same folks that have also damage in their homes but worked tirelessly for 24 hours to provide power to everybody. I can't thank them enough for their sacrifice."

Damage assessment

Torres said President Trump acknowledging their request for a state of emergency declaration allowed FEMA to come in as the overall department in charge, where all requests would go through them and they would then relay it to U.S. Department of Defense.

They are finalizing all the assessments of the damage on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, with the final report to be presented to FEMA. "We will collaboratively collect these and say we have met the threshold for a disaster. We then write the President."

He added that the NMI Red Cross, which was also on Rota since the day of the storm, would be in charge of distributing all donations—cash and in kind. "There have been so many contributions from across the U.S., Guam, and other neighboring islands. We will turn over everything to Red Cross and they would be in charge of disseminating it."

"They [Red Cross] are the professionals in that area and they have the experience after Typhoon Soudelor. They would disseminate it fairly and we don't want it to be an issue where we're choosing one over the other."

Thank you

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) and Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) expressed appreciation after Wednesday's Senate session where they passed the final version of the CNMI's 2019 fiscal year budget.

"On behalf of the people of Rota, we express our heartfelt appreciation to all the agencies, departments, the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and other entities that extended their support to restore or rebuild Rota," said Santos

She added that Rota would recover from the tragedy. "Rota will shine. Rota will rise above the storm and find sunshine again." ***(Jon Perez)***

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Manta Rays take part in Int'l Coastal Cleanup

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion held a community service cleanup last Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, led by Senior Army instructor CSM Richard Basa and Army instructor First Sgt. Troy Weaver.

It included 87 cadets, who were divided into two groups, one starting their route at Saipan Southern High School, and the other at Pakpak Beach, San Antonio.

Led by their battalion commander, cadet Lt. Col. Nicole Malasarte and battalion executive officer, cadet Maj. Jeremiah Fernandez, the Manta Rays swept through Koblerville as well as Pak Pak Beach as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day, collecting a total of 20 bags of trash and small debris. ***(PR)***

Cadets cleaning their way up to Koblerville after finishing Pak Pak Beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets clean up the Koblerville area across Rising Supermarket. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion participate in the International Coastal Cleanup Day last Sept. 15, 2018. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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This ad was developed in part under grant number 1H79SM62879-01 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The views, policies, and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of SAMHSA or HHS.

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Atalig focuses on Rota recovery

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig is focused on Rota's ongoing recovery following Typhoon Mangkhut despite his ongoing case in federal court.

Atalig, who was indicted for wire fraud last Sept. 2, 2018, has had his hands full with his ongoing federal case and his role as mayor following the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut.

According to Atalig, he has managed to remain strong and is more focused on his role as a leader following the typhoon.

"I am holding up strong for my people…I put my people and their safety first…. I want to put my constituents' needs first," he added.

Atalig said the case doesn't worry him as much as the restoration of Rota because he claims he did nothing wrong.

"I am OK with all that's on my plate because I didn't do anything wrong," he said.

The island of Rota has undergone a speedy recovery, with water up 100 percent and power up at 95 percent as of Wednesday.

Atalig said he is grateful for all the support that has been given toward the recovery of Rota from all the organizations and agencies that were involved.

"If we work together, recovery is faster," he said.

A federal grand jury indicted Atalig on a charge that he allegedly arranged a government-funded trip from Rota to Guam for himself and 12 others, including eight municipal employees, on an allegedly false claim that he was going to check for surplus equipment at the Naval Base in Guam.

According to the allegation, he actually went there to participate in a partisan political rally last June 23 in Mangilao.

The indictment charged Atalig with one count of wire fraud. It was filed earlier this month before the U.S. District Court for the NMI. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Public invited to digitization project presentation

The Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council are inviting the public to participate in the upcoming CNMI Archives Digitization Project presentations.

The presentations will be held on Sept. 25, 26, and 27, 2018, and will be conducted by humanities scholar Rlene Steffy.

The first two days of the presentation will focus on what oral history is, the collection methods, the oral history process, the benefits of the practice, and whether oral history is trustworthy. The presentations on Sept. 25 and 26 are scheduled from 11:30am to 1:00pm in Room D1, at NMC's As Terlaje campus on Saipan.

The final presentation on Sept. 27, 2018, will be held at the American Memorial Park's indoor theater, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This presentation will focus on the contents of the collection, topics that include family lineage, historical accounts, and life in the CNMI before and after World War II.

The public is encouraged to attend all three presentations at no charge.

Since its charter in 1981, NMC has served as the home of the CNMI Archives. Throughout the years, many oral and written histories of the CNMI have been recorded on VHS cassette and were transcribed by the late Herbert Del Rosario. The college aims to preserve all the collected histories by digitizing all recordings to minimize the chance of deterioration or damage. The CNMI Archives intends to make the historical contents in the collection accessible to students, community members, and researchers at the college website.

For more information on the events, contact Arthur De Oro at 237-6805 or email arthur.deoro@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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BACK FROM MISSION
Eight airmen, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, returned to Guam on Monday, Sept. 18, after supporting military construction projects at various locations in the Republic of Korea for six months. They are, from left, Master Sgt. John Laanan, Tech. Sgt. Rudy Cepeda, Staff Sgt. Ronnie Nera, Staff Sgt. Roley Borja, Staff Sgt. Barry Munoz and Staff Sgt. Ryan Jackson. Not pictured is Tech. Sgt. Joseph San Nicolas.

MASTER SGT. ELEANOR ATOIGUE

Forming tropical disturbance to pass through Marianas

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A brewing tropical disturbance is expected to pass through the Marianas over the weekend and is expected to bring heavy rain.

Just a week after Typhoon Mangkhut, another tropical disturbance was seen forming off the coast of the Marianas and is expected to pass through the Marianas Friday through Monday.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, the developing tropical disturbance and its associated monsoon trough will gradually drift west-northwestward over the Marianas. These features will generate showery conditions with heavy downpours beginning as early as Friday evening through Monday night.

The forecast shows rainfall amounts of up to 10 inches over the Marianas by Monday evening, with substantially higher amounts just west of the coastal waters as the developing circulation slowly moves northward.

If the circulation makes a slight shift to the east, it is expected to bring rainfall amounts in excess of 20 inches to the islands.

Flood watches and advisories will be issued when necessary.

Heavy downpours could produce flooding in low-lying areas and flash flooding near bodies of water.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office is urging the community to take precautionary measures as excessive rainfall is expected in the area.

Those living in areas prone to flooding should be prepared to take action should flooding develop as a result of the heavy rainfall. Clear any debris around drainage areas.

Individuals should not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep a vehicle away.

Individuals should also avoid wading in floodwater as it may contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.

Roadway safety is also highly advised as heavy rain is expected to occur throughout the Marianas.

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The Carolinian Affairs Office,
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togther with the families of the
13 Fishermen Lost At Sea
invites you to the
32nd Memorial Mass Celebration
Date: Sunday, September 23, 2018
Time: 11:00 A.M.
Venue: 13 Fishermen Memorial Monument
Beach Road, Garapan

Parade, fashion show at Int'l Festival of Cultures

The Parade of Cultures and a cultural fashion show will highlight this weekend's 4th Annual International Festival of Cultures at Paseo de Marianas on Saipan.

This year's festival will take place during three successive days, Sept. 21-23—a break from past Festival of Cultures that usually took place every Saturday in September.

The Parade of Cultures on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 5pm will featuring participants in ethnic attire walking from the Carolinian Affairs Office to Paseo de Marianas, where participants will walk the catwalk at 6pm.

The International Festival of Cultures will be held from 5pm to 10pm each night beginning on Friday, Sept. 21, and will feature live entertainment, ethnic food, arts and crafts demonstrations, and more.

"We're looking forward to a great weekend of celebrating the cultural diversity of the Marianas at this weekend's festival," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We invite everyone to come and enjoy the dances, demonstrations, and, of course, the delicious food, including roast pig tasting on Sunday."

Confirmed to participate in the festival this year are the Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Marshall Is.lands, Hawaii, Tonga/Fiji/Samoa, Bangladesh, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan, and Africa

For more information, visit the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or 1 (670) 664-3219. ***(MVA)***

Marianas Beer & BBQ Fest tickets available starting today

Tickets for the 2nd Annual Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival on Oct. 6, 2018 will be available beginning today, Sept. 21 at the International Festival of Cultures in Garapan and the Marianas Visitors Authority office.

The Marianas Beer & BBQ festival will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base and is free and open to all ages, but individuals must purchase a ticket to consume alcohol. The legal drinking age in the Marianas is 21.

The $25 package includes two 12 oz. servings of beer or wine; two 4 oz. samples of beer or wine; one chaser, and an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival collectible beer glass.

The $50 package includes three 12 oz. servings of beer or wine; three 4 oz. samples of beer or wine; two chasers, an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival collectible beer glass, and an official Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival T-shirt.

Tickets will be available at the International Festival of Cultures from 5pm to 10pm on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the MVA information booth. Tickets will also be sold beginning Friday at the MVA office on Beach Road, San Jose.

"Last year's inaugural festival was a blast, and we're looking forward to an even bigger event on Oct. 6," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

File photo shows Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival mascot Sir Bessa finds new fans at the event on Nov. 4, 2017. MVA

"Beer and barbecue festivals are famous throughout the world, and the Marianas Beer & BBQ Festival will put the Marians on the map as event where visitors can sample island brews paired with savory island chasers that we know and love."

All alcohol must be served in the official festival beer class. Additional purchases will be $5 per 12 oz. beer or wine serving, $1 for soda or water, and $1-$10 for chasers.

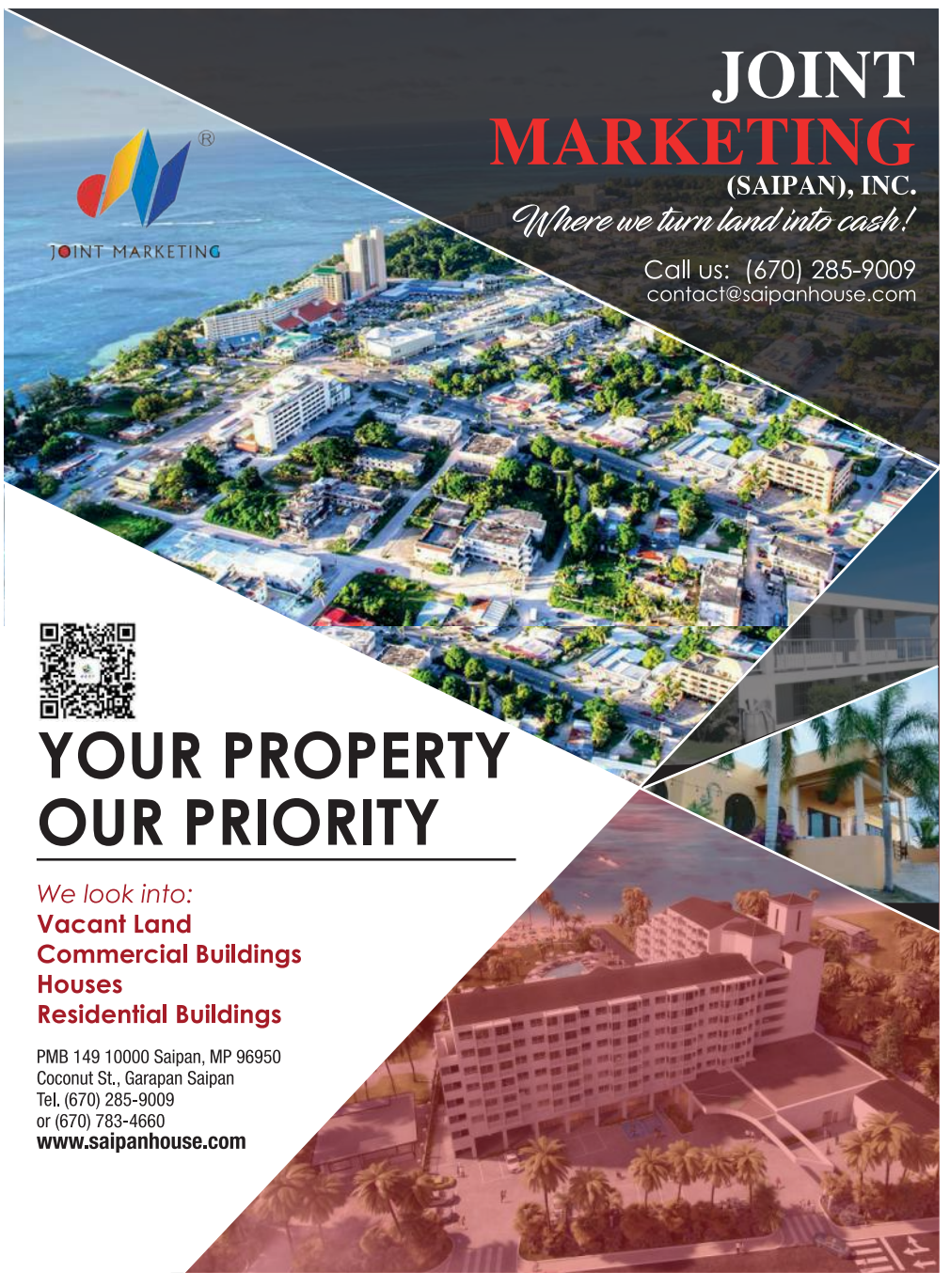
Saipan Brewing Company, Marpac, I Love Saipan, Westco, and Franken Brau have all confirmed to participate in the event, which pairs Marianas brews with island-style barbecue and other appetizers and is an annual signature event of the MVA.

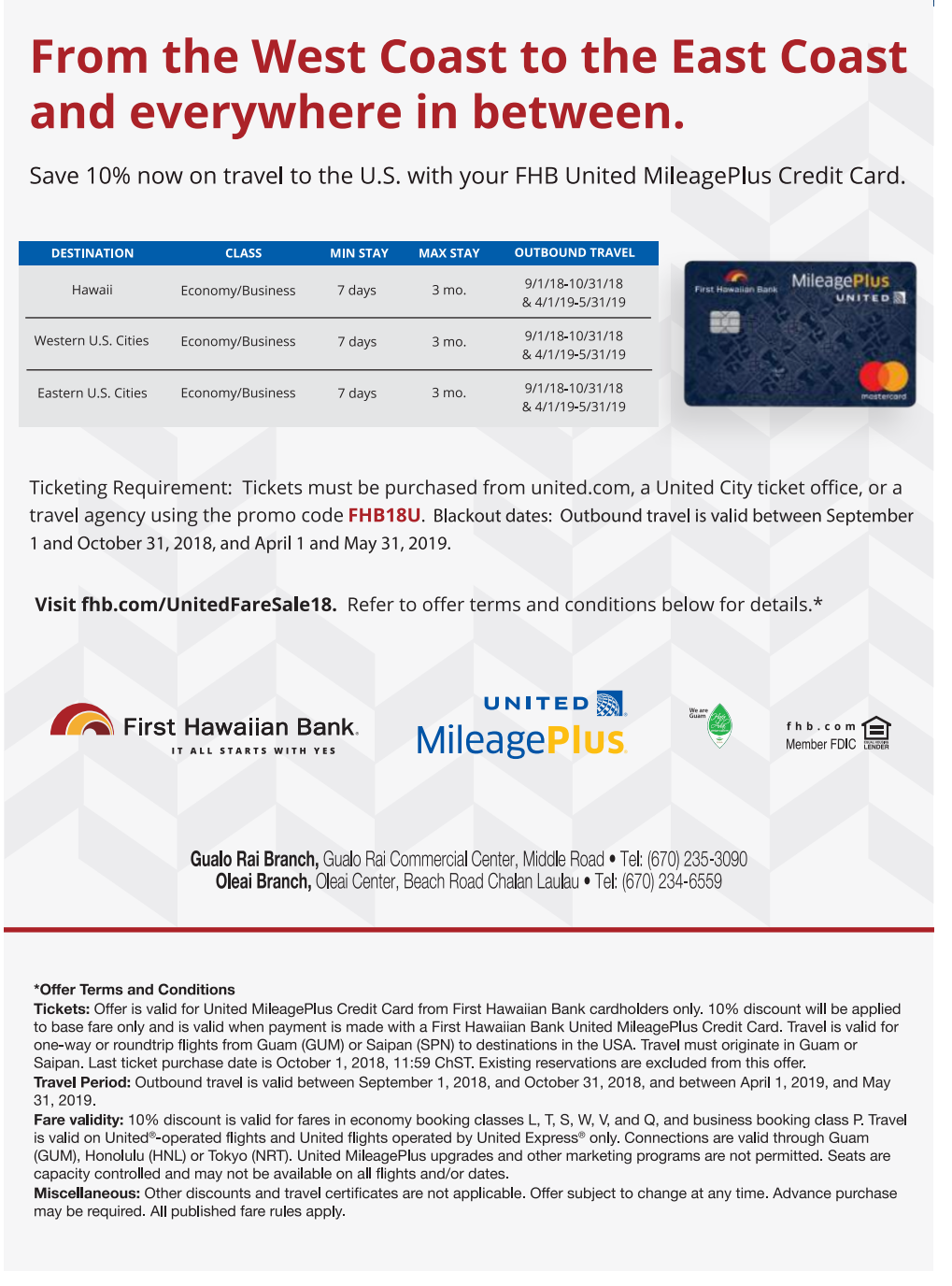
Slated to provide a variety of chasers for the events are Mystique Snack Bar, Ina's Kitchen, The Hut, and Salty's.

This year's festival will again include the participation of Taiwan's famous Fourplay Cuisine & Bar. Fourplay bar leader Moriz Wu and attendant Sion Wu will be on hand to debut new signature beer cocktails for the Marianas.

The festival is scheduled from 5pm to 11pm and will also feature live music and games.

For more information, contact Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez of the MVA at 1 (670) 664-3200/1 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com or visit the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

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Travel Period: Outbound travel is valid between September 1, 2018, and October 31, 2018, and between April 1, 2019, and May 31, 2019.
Fare validity: 10% discount is valid for fares in economy booking classes L, T, S, W, V, and Q, and business booking class P. Travel is valid on United®-operated flights and United flights operated by United Express® only. Connections are valid through Guam (GUM), Honolulu (HNL) or Tokyo (NRT). United MileagePlus upgrades and other marketing programs are not permitted. Seats are capacity controlled and may not be available on all flights and/or dates.
Miscellaneous: Other discounts and travel certificates are not applicable. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply.

$251M in rum tax payments released to USVI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior will be signing over $251 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands in rum tax cover-over payments for the estimated fiscal year 2019 rum tax collections in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The Virgin Islands government relies on receiving these funds as quickly as they are available," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke yesterday. "This is one way that my Interior team and I continue to provide necessary and beneficial support to the people of the USVI."

Under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 USC 1541), any excise tax collected on USVI manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI.

The USVI government submits an advance estimate of rum excise taxes to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs on an annual basis so that a payment can be made in September of each fiscal year. Any adjustments necessary are calculated based upon amounts advanced from rum excise taxes derived from the USVI and actual receipts collected by the federal government.

Zinke

"A similar advance payment of $223,925,000 was announced by Secretary Zinke for the USVI in September of last year for fiscal year 2018," noted Doug Domenech, assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "Any adjustments necessary for 2018 will be calculated by OIA and processed quickly in the Spring of 2019, once we receive the actuals from Treasury." ***(DOI)***

The Rota Recovery Drive was held on Sept. 15, 2018, at Garapan Fishing Base, Saipan, to collect donations for Rota, which was hit by Category 2 Typhoon Mangkhut on Sept. 10, 2018. HANMI

HANMI gives $5K aid for Rota recovery

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands donated $5,000 in typhoon relief supplies at the Rota Recovery Drive last Sept. 15 on Saipan. Rota was hit by Category 2 Typhoon Mangkhut last week, prompting a presidential declaration of emergency.

HANMI's donation of food, household and cleaning products, and more were delivered to Garapan Fishing Base on Saturday morning, where HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh expressed her support for the community effort to help the neighboring island recover.

"It's really beautiful to see the many citizens and businesses of Saipan come together to aid our brothers and sisters in Rota. This sense of community is one the qualities that makes the Marianas a wonderful place to live," said Cavanagh. "Donating to Rota was a really easy decision for our board of directors, and we are extremely grateful to D&Q Distributors, Marpac, and Triple J Ent. for giving us discounts and excellent pricing on the luncheon meat and other food, toilet paper, detergent, shovels and brooms, and other items we sent."

The community donations were loaded into two shipping containers and will be distributed by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter on Rota.

"We would also like to thank all our sponsors and supporters of our annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament. They can all take pride in helping to make aid possible for Rota," Cavanagh added.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(HANMI)***

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, in white, delivers $5,000 in relief supplies for the Rota Recovery Drive at Garapan Fishing Base on Sept. 15, 2018. From left are drive organizer Clyde Norita, Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, first lady Diann Torres, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Cavanagh, and other volunteers. HANMI

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-001-19

PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGE MAINTENANCE SERVICE
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-19

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Passenger Loading Bridge Maintenance Services. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning August 24, 2018, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan Int. Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 90 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will take place on September 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, September 21, 2018.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 24, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

III. Public Comment

IV. Adoption of Agenda

V. Adoption of Minutes

VI. Old Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement (status)

VII. New Business

A. Amendments to Casino License Agreement

1. To allow to operate less than 4-5 Star Facility
2. To allow to open Phase Development in Stages

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Robert Tenorio Torres, (F0197)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No.: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioners (Pro Bono)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of the Adoption Of: R-Peter Welle Minor Child By: Herman Igisaiar Eminia Echikar Okaruru Petitioners.	**Civil Action No. 18-0345** **NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION**

NOTICE is hereby given that a hearing on the Petition for Adoption in the above-entitled matter is set for October 1st, 2018 at 9:00 a.m./p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Kim Tenorio, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma' Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2018.

/s/ **By: Patrick V. Diaz, Deputy Clerk of Court**

CDA, MPLT approve loan deferment request

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two government loaning agencies have approved a Rota lawmaker's request to implement a temporary loan payment deferment program to allow residents to recover from Typhoon Mangkhut.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Sen. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) request to the Commonwealth Development Authority, the Marianas Public Land Trust, and other private and public loaning entities to implement a temporary loan payment deferment program had been approved.

According to CDA executive director Manual Sablan, the agency approved a 30-day loan deferment to all CDA borrowers.

CDA clarified that after the initial 30 days, the agency is willing to provide an additional 60 days, spanning October and November 2018, of loan payment deferments. Borrowers and debtors are required to notify CDA that they wish to avail of the additional time. The agency may be informed through phone, email, or by visiting any of the CDA offices.

On Saipan, the CDA building in Oleai would be entertaining requests for additional time. One may call 234-7145 or email m.coleman@developcnmi.com. On Tinian, CDA at the Kings Building in San Jose would entertain requests. Call 433-9203 or email j.sablan@developcnmi.com for more information. On Rota, CDA at the Seven Brothers Building in Songsong would entertain extension requests. Call 532-9408 or email e.manglona@developcnmi.com for more information.

CDA said that no interests will accrue for the entire 90-day period and if borrowers and debtors opt to make payments during the loan deferment period, all payments will be applied to the principal loan balance.

At their Sept. 13, 2018, special meeting, MPLT board members unanimously approved the 90-day deferment payment of both principal and interest to all home loan recipients on Rota.

"We the trustees share deeply your concern for the people of Rota. We hope that this 90-day deferment helps all the home loan recipients on Rota," MPLT chair Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero wrote in response to Santos.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Santos noted that she is appreciative of both CDA and MPLT for quickly and favorably responding to her request for the deferment.

"With this loan deferment, our affected recipients can now have the financial resources to rebuild or restore damage incurred on their homes or properties as a result of the storm," she said.

In a Sept. 14, 2018 letter, Santos asked CDA, MPLT, as well as other loaning institutions to implement the deferment program. So far, only CDA and MPLT have responded to Santos as of publication.

USCIS services available for those affected by Mangkhut

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services offers immigration services that may help people affected by special situations, including severe storms such as Typhoon Mangkhut.

The following services may be available on a discretionary basis upon request for individuals who have been directly affected by Typhoon Mangkhut, including:

- Changing a nonimmigrant status or extending a nonimmigrant stay for an individual currently in the United States. If you don't apply for the extension or change before your authorized period of admission expires, we may excuse the delay if it was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond your control;
- Re-parole of individuals USCIS previously granted parole to;
- Expedited processing of advance parole requests;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Consideration of fee waivers due to an inability to pay;
- Extension of response time or acceptance of a late response to a request for evidence or a notice of intent to deny;
- Rescheduling an interview with USCIS;
- Expedited replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a permanent resident card (green card); and
- Rescheduling a biometrics appointment.
- Note: When making a request, please explain how Typhoon Mangkhut is related to the need for the requested relief.

To learn how to request these services, visit the USCIS Contact Center. If a storm affected your InfoPass appointment, you can reschedule your appointment online.

All Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, requirements remain in place. If you have been affected by the storms and your documents were lost, stolen, or damaged, review the list of Form I-9 acceptable documents and receipts. For more information, visit I-9 Central. ***(USCIS)***

Marianas Ukulele Festival on Oct. 20

Calling all ukulele music lovers and uke jammers! The 4th annual Marianas Ukulele Festival—scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018, at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe from 2pm to 9pm—promises to be an even bigger and better event this year.

The festival features continuous live entertainment, ukulele demonstrations, arts and crafts booths, food booths, and a raffle. As always, the festival is free and open to the public.

This year's program will be focusing on local CNMI artists of all ages and skill levels, from professional entertainers to novice players. The Sunset Cruisers, Gus Kaipat and the Olomwa'ay Sons and Daughters, Marvin and Jay, Ed Johnson and Alana'ia, Da Kine, Jose Carreon and Juan Ichihara, Demalyn Pagarao, Saipan Community School, Domatsuri Warriors, and the Ukituki Band have been confirmed so far.

The Ukulele Festival Association is also partnering with various community-based ukulele instructional programs, such as the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' CNMI Arts Council, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and the Carolinian Affairs Office to provide greater access to formal ukulele instruction. Thirty scholarships for free ukulele lessons will be given away. Another goal is to get more ukuleles out into the community, so 15 ukuleles will be raffled off.

Festival partners/supporters so far, include the Marianas Visitors Authority, DCCA/Arts Council, T Galleria DFS, Island Training Solutions, IT&E, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Burger Comer, Magliari, Robert T. Torres Law Office, Kinpachi Restaurant, KKMP, and PDI.

All ukulele players/groups interested in performing at the festival should please contact Larry Lee at larrylee33@gmail.com or telephone 285-7127, or Gordon Marciano at gordon@pdisaipan.com by Oct. 6, 2018. Anyone interested in supporting the festival through cash or in-kind contributions should contact the same.

For more information, visit www.marianasukulelefestival.org. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Kavanaugh and Ford: High school's long reach

Many Americans are struggling to sort out the conflicting accounts from a suburban Maryland party that occurred more than three decades ago.

The case we're discussing dates to the early 1980s. Christine Blasey Ford, now a 51-year-old college professor, says Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her when they were high school students at that party.

Kavanaugh denies the accusation. "This is a completely false allegation," he said in a statement. "I have never done anything like what the accuser describes—to her or to anyone." Others vouch for Kavanaugh's character. A letter signed by 65 women who knew Kavanaugh in high school says that he had "always treated women with decency and respect."

The Senate has scheduled a hearing Monday so Ford and Kavanaugh can testify.

Whom do you believe? Some Americans already have made up their minds. They may resolve ambiguities by defaulting to their political affiliations or to their pre-existing opinions of the gravity of such behavior at a young age. They may be suspicious of the timing of this allegation, which emerged days before a scheduled Senate committee vote on Kavanaugh's nomination. Or they may feel that there should be a statute of limitations on the repercussions of alleged high school conduct that went unreported at the time. That such incidents, true or false, shouldn't affect an important confirmation vote decades later.

Such rushes to judgment are premature. Within days, all of us likely will learn information that helps us decide whom to believe.

So far this is certain: Ford has shown courage by stepping into the national spotlight. Her life will never be the same. Nor will Kavanaugh's. Whether or not he is confirmed as a Supreme Court justice, this case, this moment, shows the profound reach and power of a #MeToo allegation. Other powerful business leaders, politicians and, yes, journalists already have learned that.

Sure, we realize that everyone who has ever attended high school probably did something to regret. Often many somethings. And we know that many Americans, now well beyond high school, may have thought that their conduct back then was sealed and irretrievable. Even if questionable behavior came to light, no one would care. These people, now adult men and women, may have believed that what they did in their youth—for good or ill—would not trail them into adulthood.

Wrong.

Today, in the era of Facebook and Twitter and sexting, adolescents can't too strenuously be warned to be careful. That's a message young people—boys and girls—can't hear often enough from parents, teachers, coaches and other adults who care.

The Kavanaugh case will be resolved soon. Whatever happens, there's no statute of limitations on the lesson here: The repercussions of our actions can reflect upon us gloriously, or haunt us mercilessly, throughout our lives.

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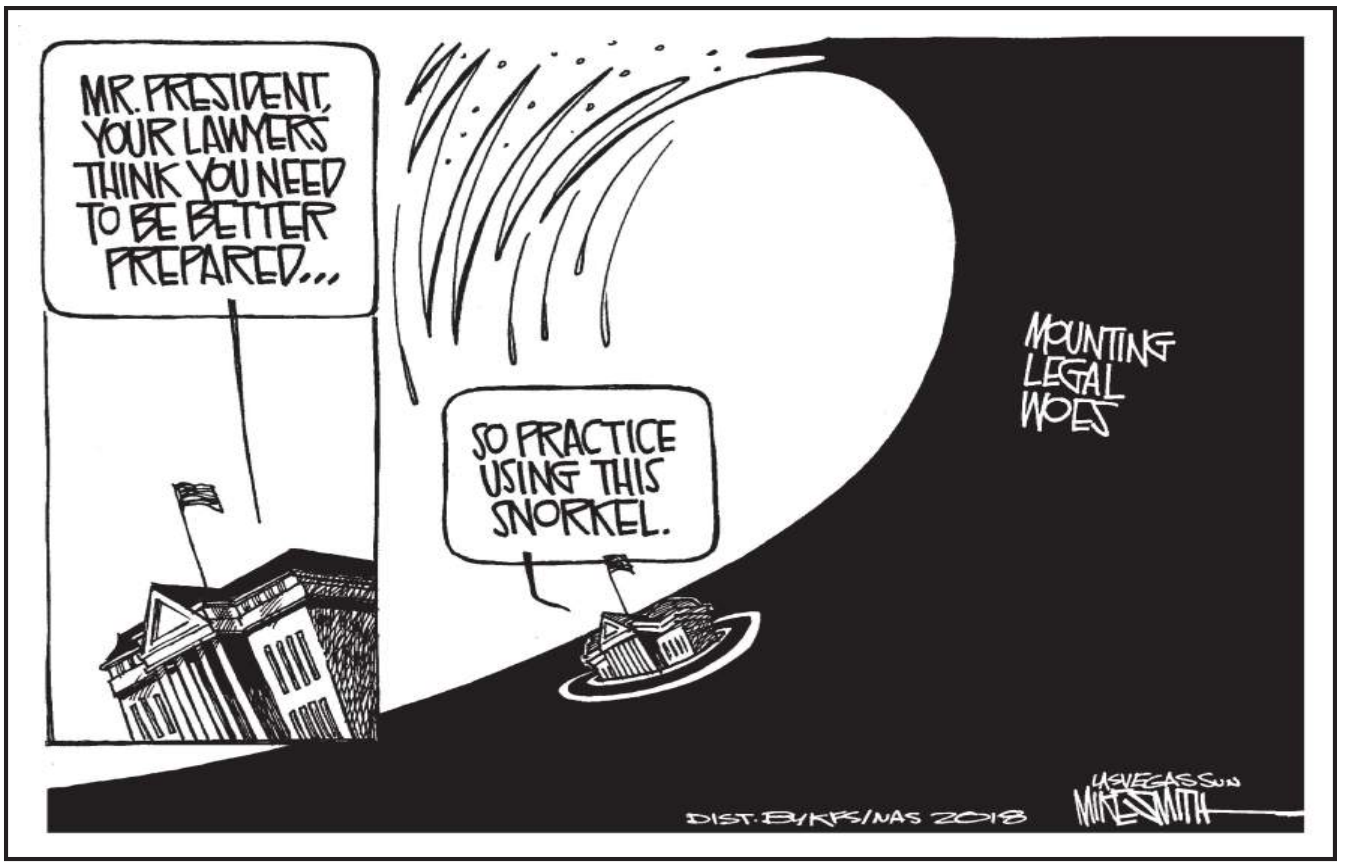
MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR LAWYERS THINK YOU NEED TO BE BETTER PREPARED...
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Meet Qais and Mai: Exactly the kind of immigrant couple America should be welcoming

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Last weekend, I attended a wedding in Atlanta between a brilliant Afghan writer and an equally brilliant young Chinese American doctoral student.

Their stories and their wedding are a graphic illustration of the vital contribution immigrants make to American society. They also illustrate the illogic of current White House efforts to slash the number of legal immigrants admitted to the United States.

I met Qais Akbar Omar over a decade ago in Kabul where he ran the family's carpet business. But he was also writing a memoir, in English, about his tumultuous childhood during the Afghan civil war and Taliban rule. At that time, I could never have imagined I would attend his wedding where Americans of many ethnic backgrounds danced to Afghan and Western music—and gorged on a fabulous Chinese buffet.

But Qais' memoir was so gripping that Farrar, Straus & Giroux eventually published it as *A Fort of Nine Towers*; the young Afghan writer was subsequently invited to do a master's degree in creative writing at Boston University. In his program, Qais met Mai Wang, a naturalized citizen who came here from Beijing as a child and is now pursuing a doctorate at Stanford University, while writing her own novel.

Mai's father, a professor of philosophy at a top Beijing university, immigrated to the United States and became a successful software engineer. Her mother, an expert in ancient Chinese calligraphy, took waitressing jobs until she could open up a small printing business and work as a Chinese-English translator.

Theirs is the quintessential immigrant story: strivers who take a chance for a better life in a new country, contribute to the U.S. workforce, and pay taxes that outstrip any benefits they may have received. They often arrive with high skill levels that complement rather than compete with U.S. workers, and they add to overall economic growth.

The current, poisonous debate over immigration has totally defaced the actual portrait of legal immigrants. For example: How many Americans realize that legal immigrants are often as, or better educated than Americans?

Nearly half of those arriving between 2012 and 2016 had a college degree, according to the Migration Policy Institute. "The United States has creamed the best and the brightest of the world's emigrants for decades," says the Council on Foreign Relations' Edward Alden, an immigration expert. "Overall, they are an enormous net positive for the economy. But we're doing everything we can to discourage this."

Yes indeed. The Trump administration is trying to cut back legal immigration in myriad ways, capping refugee admissions at a record low, narrowing who is eligible for asylum, and shrinking the number of visas for high-skilled workers. Mountains of new bureaucratic hurdles are being imposed to shrink the numbers who qualify for permanent residency or citizenship.

Even worse, the image of all immigrants is being blackened by conflating illegals with legal immigrants, and implying that most newcomers are criminals. This is simply untrue.

Poll after reputable poll has shown that foreign-born individuals exhibit remarkably low levels of involvement in crime, whether documented or undocumented. And legal immigrants pay much more in taxes over their lifetimes than any benefits they may receive.

Moreover, illegal immigrants make up only a small portion of overall immigration. "The vast majority of immigrants are legal," says David Bier, an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute in Washington. Since 2007, he adds, illegal immigration has been declining.

And contrary to popular myth, the biggest group of new, legal foreign-born U.S. residents since 2010 are Asians, not Latin Americans.

You'd never get this picture, of course, from the scary imagery on partisan websites or propagated by President Trump and his administration. But the true face of immigration was on display at this wonderful wedding last weekend.

And this multicultural wedding was moving in ways that went beyond statistics.

For one thing, the parents of both Qais and Mai (with Qais' father beamed in from Kabul on FaceTime) were incredibly welcoming to the new couple, despite their ethnic differences. They demonstrated an inclusiveness that was once the hallmark of the United States.

For another thing, Qais' younger brother, whose life was threatened because he worked as a translator for the U.S. military in Afghanistan, was there with his family, having received a visa in a special program for such translators—a program that is now, shamefully, frozen.

And Qais, who just finished a novel, is safe in America, although his life would be threatened back in Kabul because of his writings. He has applied for asylum and hopes to teach creative writing. But his request is still pending, although he is exactly the kind of immigrant America should be welcoming.

In Atlanta, I saw the best of America, brought to us from abroad.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

More adventures in SOHO

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It's time for another installment in the adventures of the Small Office Home Office, or SOHO, lifestyle.

The first item can be called Never Do Anything Until You've Had Your Morning Coffee. It could also be called How To Accidentally Destroy Your Own Data. Hey, take your pick. They're the same thing.

I was binge-writing on a project early last Saturday. Five hours into the draft I decided to finally crank up the kettle to I could get my overdue fix of coffee. While the water heated, and while I messed with the coffee and the mug, I figured I'd multi-task my way into formatting a new USB flash drive so I could back up the file I had been working on. The file resided on a USB flash drive utterly identical to the new one I intended to format and use.

I think you can see this coming.

So, yes. Yes, I did. I managed to format the drive with the data instead of the blank drive. Now they were both blank.

I have some strange aversion to re-typing lost work. I'd sooner spend 10 hours recovering a manuscript than five hours re-doing it. That 10 hours doesn't count time invested in brooding, pouting, and stomping up and down while going Full Cranky. Yeah, I know, you should never go Full Cranky, but there are some exemptions if you read the fine print in life. This is one of them.

Anyway, I downloaded the free version of an application called "Recuva" from Piriform.com. I've long been aware of the Recuva application, since I've used some of Piriform's other products—CCleaner and Defraggler—and liked them.

After installing Recuva I read the instructions. I probably didn't understand them; after all, it was just one of those days to begin with. Anyway, nothing good came from that attempt. Bah!

The second time around I did not read the instructions. This, of course, was an approach better suited to my habits. The program slowly ground through its process, and, to my astonishment, it found and recovered the file.

Hooray, Recuva!

As a technological postscript to that event, I'll note that when I accidentally formatted the wrong drive I did a "quick format," which was a fairly non-destructive treatment of the data.

Another note on the SOHO front is The Price Of Laser Printer Cartridges Is Too Darned High.

I finally decided to try a non-factory brand. The first one went well, so after I ran through that one I tried a second one. It was flawless as well. After the second came the third. I don't have many miles on the third one yet, but it's doing a fine job, and by this point I've seen enough to buy into the concept.

The brand I bought all three times is "Linkyo." The money I saved so far would buy an entire laser printer.

One thing about the "paperless" computer-based workspace is that it sure goes through a lot of printers, toner cartridges, and, oh yeah, paper, too.

Meanwhile, I continue to merrily chug along with a user-friendly word-processor called "AbiWord," which is simply too good not to mention from time to time. Given the tight budgets on Saipan, I don't know why this isn't more popular. It's free.

Better yet, it's simple and not obnoxious. I use it with Windows. I know it runs on Linux. I'm not really clear on its status with Macs.

I harbor no hopes that anyone remembers WordStar for DOS, but AbiWord filled the hole in my heart that WordStar's demise made, and that was a mighty big hole.

AbiWord's website is AbiSource.com. You don't even have to install it on your computer, it can be run in "portable" format from a USB flash drive, unless, that is, you, uh, wipe out the drive by reformatting it, but let's not go there again. The portable version is available at PortableApps.com, a site that has all sorts of free stuff that can be run from a USB flash drive.

Portable applications are great. If a typhoon is menacing you, you don't have to carry your entire computer to the top of Mt. Tapochau to keep your digital life out of the water. You can just put the USB flash drive in your pocket and you're ready to calmly ride things out, beer in hand.

Furthermore, in contrast to commercial bloatware, many portable applications seem to work very well with older computers, so this is a great way to keep the old machines productive.

Well, I'm feeling like something of an old machine myself these days, and probably none too productive, but such are my notes on the SOHO front. Tomorrow is another day, and we'll see what adventures await. But first, coffee.

I'm not skipping that step again. Some adventures aren't worth repeating.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Mr. Manafort Finally Flips

A dollop of droll doggerel disguised as a sonnet

A loss of fealty, the perpetrator pleads guilty and admits
millions in Ukrainian money acrobatics in bleeps and blips
a foreign agents political tale told in news and TV clips
a puerile smiling 45 under combed over dyed hair flips
daily tweeting stormy surrealistic solipsistic shivering fits.
Manafort pleads guilty as another trial hangs on his hips
now all the dirty dealing secrets will pour from his lips
as Mueller attack dog prosecutors take painful nips.
When 45 passes Paul Manafort will be noted in his obits
with Paul's Trump Tower observations and serious quips.
Meanwhile a political hurricane across Wash. D.C. rips
thanks to Manafort's truth tongue slips and tell all tips
his egregious law breaking awakens Congressional whips.
This campaign chair's actions effected US voting trips.

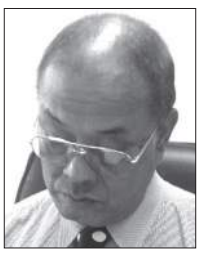
If It Walks Like A Duck

"A lot of bad things happen in lame duck sessions."
—U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

If it walks like a duck, sounds like & talks like a duck
its probably Donald, the rich yellow hair dyed duck
If it tweets twaddle and twit and talks plenty of BS
you can bet your tax return it is probably full of it
How gullible are the governed, what will they believe
are they gullible enough to believe a gull is a duck
both have beaks, quack, squawk, screech, and tweak
under the guise of insulting talk when they speak
there are daffy sitting ducks, dead and lame ducks
ducks on a pond, Beijing eating soybeans ducks
medieval torture of ducks in a ducking pond
ugly duckling turned to swan with a magic wand
there are those who every honest question ducks
those who bring overflow to a nation's tear ducts.

Quality of life

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Reportedly, more than half of employees here are earning poverty-level and below. It's a tale that the local economy is under unlivable dystopia—unpleasant and bad—adversely affecting the quality of life of families throughout the islands.

Politicians may deny it but, sooner than later, it knocks viciously at the front door. It deals with the livelihood of people you represent. These are hard-hit families who still pay for the first family home, food, car, medical care, utilities, and insurance policies such as life, health, real estate and auto, among others.

Have you done your homework like probing percentage increase in basic goods and what have you done to neutralize it? Or do you simply ignore it altogether,praying it evaporates like morning dew?

It's diabolical to brave the assertion that "things are good" amidst 14,000-plus employees literally struggling to survive poverty-level income. How did Guvana Raffet and Da Boysis miss this daily reality among families here? Obviously, the elitist assertion speaks volumes of the wealthier class boasting comfortable lifestyle against the downtrodden.

As life in troubled paradise deteriorates, villagers are curious what's up the sleeves of their representatives to help them deal with the skyrocketing prices of basic goods. Do you have concrete programs to help meet the impending increase?

The deepening condition is pestilential—expands and worsens daily—found in most households throughout the NMI. How do we sail a canoe with a captain still a greenhorn in his navigational skills?

You can't continue perpetuating la mañana in hopes that your political snooze falls out of the blue skies of paradise. Must rein in the beast and this, mind you, requires leadership, not followership! Is Guvana Raffet anywhere near the building so we ask him for a set of blueprint to review?

Trade war: The two economic giants, China and U.S., are out to enlist economic partnership with nations in Asia and the Pacific. Each has its own set of economic programs for this purpose. China has her Road and Belt initiative, the U.S. its Indo-Pacific Economic Vision.

In either case, it boils down to military expansion fronting economic programs as subtle diplomacy to gain regional political partnership.

Interesting, too, the mass production of items in China relocating to places like Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand.

The NMI is under the Stars and Stripes Forever! We've thrived under the flag since the end of World War II. Our loyalty is to our country! We're equally wary of the pluses of economic trajectory of Asian countries that would benefit the islands, especially in tourism.

Trump just slapped a 10-percent tariff on imports worth $200 billion annually, a move that follows two previous rounds of 25-percent tariffs on shipments worth $50 billion a year. The tariff rate on the latest batch of goods will rise to 25 percent on Jan. 1, 2019. China plans what it calls "synchronized counter measures" against the Trump tariffs. Regardless, the world needs China's 1.4 billion consumers!

Health: One costly family obligation we face yearly is medical care. If you're not a Medicaid or Medicare recipient, you're in for some rough times with co-payment and the final bill. The national debate is how to keep health insurance affordable for all citizens.

According to Sen. John Barrasso: "Republicans are providing alternatives to Obamacare that lower costs for families and protect people from catastrophic medical bills. More people will now be able to choose affordable insurance that works for them.

"It's this competition that Democrats fear. Thirty-one Democrats in the Senate are trying to keep people from getting access to expanded popular short-term plans. Democratic politicians in several states and Washington D.C. are blocking these plans and suing to stop association health plans as well."

Fatal: Cancer would kill about 10 million people worldwide this year, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, per an AFP report.

"Asia, unsurprisingly given its enormous population, accounted for nearly half of all new cases and more than half of cancer deaths worldwide in 2018.

"Lung cancer remains the biggest killer overall, responsible for some 1.8 million deaths—nearly a quarter of the global toll.

"For women, breast cancer caused 15 percent of cancer deaths, followed by lung cancer (13.8 percent) and colorectal cancer (9.5 percent).

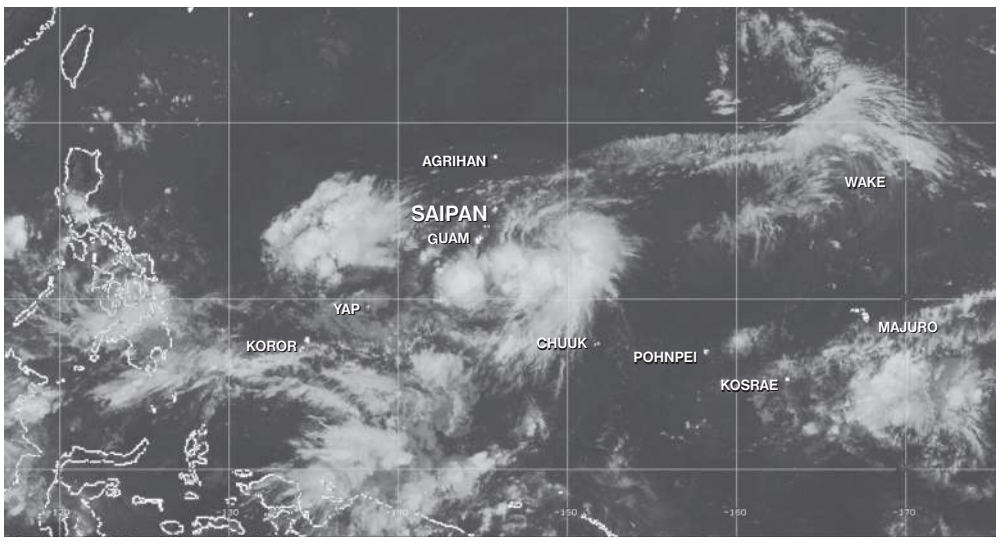
"The figures highlighted a worrying rise in lung cancer rates for women. It is now the leading cause of female cancer deaths in 28 countries, including Denmark, the Netherlands, China, and New Zealand." Statistics has it that in the islands' lung, mouth, prostate, breast and vaginal cancer are leading causes of death.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Breezy at times. Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Breezy at times. Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:07 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance, now to the south-southeast of Guam, and the associated monsoon trough remains the primary player in the Marianas forecast through the beginning of next week. Latest model guidance is now showing the heaviest rainfall with this system much closer to the islands. The GFS and ECMWF are now in much better agreement, with heavy rainfall near and over the islands. Both models now show development of the disturbance to the west of the Marianas as it moves slowly toward the north then north-northeast. This situation could bring very heavy rainfall to the islands beginning later tonight and possibly continuing on through the middle of next week. Decided to increase showers across the islands to numerous at Guam and Rota Friday, then at Tinian and Saipan Friday night. Also extended scattered showers on through Sunday night. This may need to be extended further, possibly through Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 55°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Windy	59° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	70° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 65°
Osaka	Showers	82° / 70°
Paris	Showers	66° / 50°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	82° / 64°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	91° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	75° / 61°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 72°

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
04:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.56
11:26 AM	LOW TIDE	0.15
6:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:40 AM	3:46 PM
Saturday	-	3:30 AM	4:28 PM
Sunday	-	4:19 AM	5:09 PM
Monday	-	5:08 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	-	5:57 AM	6:28 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Micronesia Island Nature Alliance (MINA)

Green Gala

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Marianas Visitors Authority | Napu Outrigger Club | Garlic Grotto Restaurant | MHS Glee Club | Romolo Orsini | Monique Boyer Sablan | Val & Lisa Cruz | MINA Volunteers

International Coastal Cleanup

Members of the Saipan Southern High School Youth Environmental Ambassadors Club pose for a photo at Ladder Beach after collecting 120 lbs of trash during the International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The DFS Saipan team poses for a photo as they head out to the Old Man by the Sea for trash collection. They collected 219 lbs of trash during the International Coastal Cleanup.

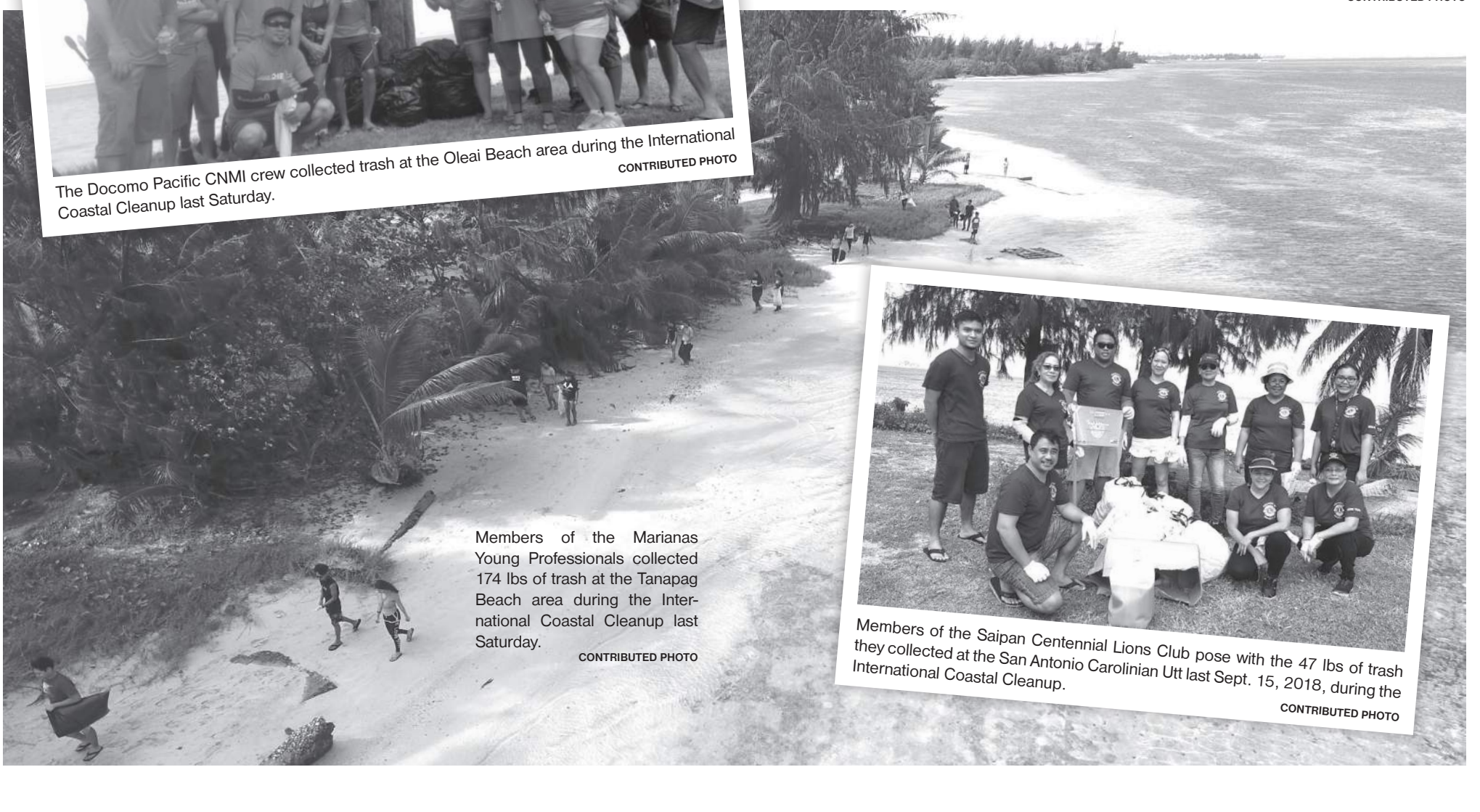
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College Environmental Natural Resources Organization collected a whopping 1,100 lbs of trash last Sept. 15, 2018, during the International Coastal Cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Docomo Pacific CNMI crew collected trash at the Oleai Beach area during the International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Marianas Young Professionals collected 174 lbs of trash at the Tanapag Beach area during the International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Centennial Lions Club pose with the 47 lbs of trash they collected at the San Antonio Carolinian Utt last Sept. 15, 2018, during the International Coastal Cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Regulators: NC flooding too bad to tally environmental harm

Aerial photographs show widespread devastation to farms and industrial sites in eastern North Carolina, with tell-tale trails of rainbow-colored sheen indicating potential contamination visible on top of the black floodwaters.

However, conditions remain so bad more than five days after Hurricane Florence made landfall that the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality said its inspectors have been unable to visit the hardest hit areas or collect samples of the flood water for lab testing. The agency's regional office in Fayetteville had one foot of water inside, while other locations were without electricity.

"DEQ is waiting for travel conditions to improve ... before we can safely inspect the damage reported by farmers to the hog lagoons," said Megan Thorpe, spokeswoman for the state environmental agency. "Personally, our staff are facing damage to their homes and those who evacuated are trying to get back. Many staff are helping their colleagues with cleanup."

State inspectors were able to make it Tuesday to a Wilmington power plant where a landfill breached last weekend, spilling enough coal ash to fill about 180 dump trucks. Duke Energy said Wednesday that water samples collected by its employees and tested at the company's own lab showed "no evidence of a coal ash impact" to nearby Sutton Lake or the Cape Fear River.

Thorpe said state environmental regulators were waiting on the results of their own testing before determining whether there were any violations of clean water quality rules.

Pressed Wednesday on whether any federal regulators were at work in the flood-impacted areas, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency referred a reporter to a news release about a regional administrator visiting with state officials at an office in Raleigh.

"Water is still rising, flooding is widespread, and lives are still in danger," EPA Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn said, according to the media release. "The government's first responsibility is to protect lives and the health of the citizens impacted."

State officials said they have received reports that the earthen dam at one hog lagoon in Duplin County had breached over the weekend, spilling its contents. According to figures released Wednesday four other lagoons had the same structural damage. ***(AP)***

Deadly plant disease threatens $250M rose business

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The outlook for American-grown roses is becoming a bit less rosy, with the spread of an incurable virus that's causing major damage to the nation's $250-million-a-year rose business.

U.S. rose bush producers account for the bulk of that business and face a growing challenge from rose rosette disease, which can kill roses within three years. Its many symptoms include super-thorny stems and clusters of stems called rosettes or witches' brooms.

One producer spent $1 million getting rid of rose rosette disease and some smaller nurseries have had to destroy 10,000 plants, said Dr. David Byrne of Texas A&M University, leader of a $4.6 million multistate project to study the virus and the mite that spreads it, and to find resistant rose varieties.

"It moves real easily and it's hard to detect initially. ... That's really scary for someone in production," Byrne said. "If it gets in their pots in their production areas, they've got to eliminate thousands of plants. Even then they don't know if they've got rid of it."

He also said, "I think we're seeing it in more areas now than 10 years ago."

The virus, spread by wind-blown mites about half the length of a grain of salt, has been found in at least 30 states. In Texas, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden had to replace its entire rose collection.

No way out? US, China tariffs may become the 'new normal'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The path to peace in a trade war between the United States and China is getting harder to find as the world's two biggest economies pile ever more taxes on each other's producats.

The United States is scheduled to slap tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese imports Monday, adding to the more than $50 billion worth that already face U.S. import taxes. China has vowed to counterpunch with tariffs on $60 billion in U.S. goods.

President Donald Trump is ready to up the ante, threatening to tax just about everything China ships to the United States.

"It's more likely than not that these tariffs will be put in place for a long time," said Timothy Keeler, a partner at the Mayer Brown law firm and former chief of staff at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The two countries are locked in combat over Washington's allegations that Beijing pilfers foreign trade secrets and forces U.S. companies to hand over technology in return for access to the Chinese market. The predatory practices, the U.S. says, are part of China's relentless drive to challenge American technological dominance.

The Americans and Chinese haven't held high-level talks since June, raising doubts about whether a resolution can be reached anytime soon.

"Both sides believe they can outlast the other, fearing any conciliatory move will be viewed as weakness and reduce negotiating leverage," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is a vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

The tariff exchange is creating casualties in the United States. Companies that import Chinese materials and parts are facing higher prices. So are the consumers who buy everything from burglar alarms to baseball gloves. U.S. farmers are being hurt by China's retaliatory tariffs on soybeans and other agricultural products.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that the Board Financial Affairs Committee will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located in the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan.

AGENDA

A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

B. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

C. ITEMS:
1. Supplemental Budget Requests:
   i. Rota ARFF Building Renovations
   ii. Saipan Airport Utilities
2. Draft Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS
E. EXECUTIVE SESSION
F. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit will be imposed for oral testimony.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Perimeter Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, October 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Date: September 6, 2018

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DLNR18-RFP-008

AGREEMENT TO FUND, REDESIGN, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MARINA CONCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Agreement to Fund, Redesign, Maintain and Operate Marina Concession on behalf of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **September 7, 2018** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Ore-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Lower Base Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **September 18, 2018**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with **§70-30.3-305** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/DLNR18-RFP-008"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **October 9, 2018** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **October 9, 2018**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 9, 2018** and may be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 AND must be received no later than the close of business, **October 17, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

James A. Ada	**Anthony T. Benavente**	**Herman S. Sablan**
Secretary of Public Works	Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources	Director, Procurement & Supply

Nation

Man opens fire at his Wisconsin office, 3 seriously hurt

MIDDLETON, Wis. (AP)—A heavily armed man opened fire on his co-workers at a Wisconsin software company Wednesday, seriously wounding three people before being fatally shot by police as employees ran from the building or hid inside, according to investigators.

Middleton Police Chief Chuck Foulke said officers shot the man within eight minutes of receiving calls about an active shooter at WTS Paradigm. Foulke said the man was armed with a semi-automatic pistol and extra ammunition, and fired at officers before he was shot.

Foulke said three people were seriously injured during the attack, while a fourth person was grazed by a bullet.

"I think a lot less people were injured or killed because police officers went in and neutralized the shooter," Foulke said.

The police chief said the motivation behind the attack was unclear and investigators didn't yet know whether the gunman targeted his victims. He didn't release the suspect's name but said he was an employee of WTS Paradigm and lived in nearby Madison.

Foulke said the investigation was ongoing but noted: "We have reason to believe the suspect was heavily armed with a lot of extra ammunition, a lot of extra magazines."

A heavily armed man opened fire on his co-workers at a Wisconsin software company Wednesday, seriously wounding three people before being fatally shot by police as employees ran from the building or hid inside. (Sept. 19)

Judy Lahmers, a business analyst at WTS Paradigm, said she was working at her desk when she heard what sounded "like somebody was dropping boards on the ground, really loud." Lahmers said she ran out of the building and hid behind a car.

She said the building's glass entrance door was shattered.

"I'm not looking back, I'm running as fast as I can. You just wonder, 'Do you hide or do you run?'" she told The Associated Press.

She said she knew one co-worker had been grazed by a bullet but was OK. She didn't have any other information about the shooting but said it was "totally unexpected. We're all software people. We have a good group."

WTS Paradigm Marketing Manager Ryan Mayrand said in a statement Wednesday evening that the company was "shocked and heartbroken" and was working to set up counseling for workers. He asked the media to respect the privacy of the workers, particularly those who were among the victims.

University Hospital in Madison confirmed Wednesday afternoon that it was still treating three victims from the shooting, saying one was in critical condition and two were in serious condition.

Police conducted a secondary search of the office building after the shooting to ensure there were no more victims or suspects—and officers discovered some people still hiding in the building, which also houses Esker Software.

Gabe Geib, a customer advocate at Esker Software, said he was working at his desk when he heard what "sounded like claps." He said he then saw people running away from the building at "full sprint."

"We knew at that point that something was going down. A ton of people were running across the street right in front of us," he said.

Geib said he and his colleagues were still huddled in their cafeteria, away from windows, more than an hour after the shooting.

A woman is escorted from the scene of a shooting at a software company in Middleton, Wis., Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018. AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman who helped kidnap Elizabeth Smart released from prison

DRAPER, Utah (AP)—A woman who helped kidnap Elizabeth Smart and stood by as the Utah girl was sexually assaulted was released from prison Wednesday amid concerns that she remains a threat 15 years after the chilling crime. Wanda Barzee, 72, quietly left the state prison in the Salt Lake City suburb of Draper, avoiding a throng of reporters gathered outside. Court documents say she will stay in unspecified emergency housing chosen by her probation officer until another home is approved. Barzee's release followed a surprise announcement last week that Utah authorities had miscalculated her sentence and she would be freed about six years earlier than expected.

Police kill gunman who shot 4 in Pennsylvania court lobby

A gunman opened fire outside a crowded Pennsylvania courtroom Wednesday afternoon, shooting at police and others before an officer fired multiple shots at him, killing him. Fayette County District Attorney Richard Bower said Wednesday evening that a German Township police officer shot and killed the gunman after he entered the lobby in Masontown with a handgun drawn and opened fire injuring four people. Bower declined to name the gunman, saying only that he was due in court on charges related to a recent domestic violence incident. Bower said Masontown police Sgt. R. Scott Miller first encountered the gunman and was injured when he exchanged gunfire with the shooter. When Miller took cover, Bower said the gunman proceeded to fire shots injuring two men and one woman. *(AP)*

Official: More possible victims of California doctor found

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators have identified three more possible victims after a California surgeon and his girlfriend were charged with drugging and raping two intoxicated women, prosecutors said Wednesday. Michelle Van Der Linden, a spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney's office, said prosecutors have received numerous calls since Tuesday, when the initial charges were announced against Dr. Grant Robicheaux and Cerissa Riley. Robicheaux once appeared in a reality TV show called "Online Dating Rituals of the American Male." Defense attorneys say the suspects deny the claims.

Official: Man shoots at ex, kills parents in Pennsylvania

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP)—Authorities are searching for a man who they say shot at his ex-wife and then killed his parents at a retirement center Wednesday in Pennsylvania. Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan says authorities are looking for 59-year-old Bruce Rogal of Glenmoore. Hogan says Rogal received an order finalizing his divorce that awarded the home to his ex-wife and "that appears to be what set him off today." Hogan says Rogal first went to the house where his ex-wife was staying. Hogan says the ex-wife was in the driveway, and Rogal shot at her but missed. He then drove to the Bellingham Assisted Living Center in East Goshen Township. Hogan says at about 6:15 p.m., Rogal shot and killed his parents, William and Nancy, both in their late 80s, and then fled.

Federal agency says it lost track of 1,488 migrant children

By GARANCE BURKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Twice in less than a year, the federal government has lost track of nearly 1,500 migrant children after placing them in the homes of sponsors across the country, federal officials have acknowledged.

The Health and Human Services Department recently told Senate staffers that case managers could not find 1,488 children after they made follow-up calls to check on their safety from April through June. That number represents about 13 percent of all unaccompanied children the administration moved out of shelters and foster homes during that time.

The agency first disclosed that it had lost track of 1,475 children late last year, as it came under fire at a Senate hearing in April. Lawmakers had asked HHS officials how they had strengthened child protection policies since it came to light that the agency previously had rolled back safeguards meant to keep Central American children from ending up in the hands of human traffickers.

"The fact that HHS, which placed these unaccompanied minors with sponsors, doesn't know the whereabouts of nearly 1,500 of them is very troubling," Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, the panel's chair, said Wednesday. "Many of these kids are vulnerable to trafficking and abuse, and to not take responsibility for their safety is unacceptable."

HHS spokeswoman Caitlin Oakley disputed the notion that the children were "lost."

"Their sponsors, who are usually parents or family members and in all cases have been vetted for criminality and ability to provide for them, simply did not respond or could not be reached when this voluntary call was made," she said in a statement.

Since October 2014, the federal government has placed more than 150,000 unaccompanied minors with parents or other adult sponsors who are expected to care for the children and help them attend school while they seek legal status in immigration court.

On Tuesday, members of a Senate subcommittee introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at requiring the agency to take responsibility for the care of migrant children, even when they are no longer in its custody.

An Associated Press investigation found in 2016 that more than two dozen unaccompanied children had been sent to homes where they were sexually assaulted, starved or forced to work for little or no pay. At the time, many adult sponsors didn't undergo thorough background checks, government officials rarely visited homes and in some cases had no idea that sponsors had taken in several unrelated children, a possible sign of human trafficking.

Asia

Japan's Abe to stay on as PM

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been re-elected as head of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a landslide, paving the way for up to three more years as the nation's leader.

Abe

Abe handily defeated his sole challenger, Shigeru Ishiba, a former defense minister.

Thursday's decisive victory may embolden him to pursue his long-sought revision to Japan's U.S.-drafted pacifist constitution, although the hurdles remain high and doing so would carry political risks.

The 63-year-old Abe has been prime minister since December 2012. He has cemented control of his party and received support from conservatives for bringing stability and continuity to economic and diplomatic policies. With a third term as party leader, Abe is poised to become Japan's longest-serving leader in August 2021.

Kim, Moon head to sacred volcano

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — The two Korean leaders took to the road for the final day of their summit Thursday, heading to a beautiful volcano considered sacred in the North and used in its propaganda to legitimize the Kims' three generations of rule. Their trip followed a day of wide-ranging agreements they trumpeted as a major step toward peace on the Korean Peninsula.

However, their premier accord on the issue most fascinating and worrisome — the North's pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles that can accurately strike the U.S. mainland — contained a big condition: Kim Jong Un stated he would permanently dismantle North Korea's main nuclear complex only if the United States takes unspecified corresponding measures.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in flew separately to an airport near Mount Paektu on Thursday morning where they met up and drove to the mountain on the North Korean-Chinese border. Members of the Kim family are referred to as sharing the "Paektu Bloodline." The volcano topped with a deep crater lake is also emblazoned on the national emblem and lends its name to everything from rockets to power stations.

Moon plans to return to South Korea later Thursday, but the leaders are still basking in the glow of the joint statement they settled Wednesday. Compared to the vague language of their two earlier summits, Kim and Moon seem to have agreed on an ambitious program meant to tackle soaring tensions last year that had many fearing war as the North tested a string of increasingly powerful weapons.

Kim promised to accept international inspectors to monitor the closing of a key missile test site and launch pad and to visit Seoul soon, and both leaders vowed to work together to try to host the Summer Olympics in 2032.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rains set off landslide, burying several in mid-Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A landslide set off by heavy rains buried homes under part of a mountainside in the central Philippines on Thursday, and several people are feared buried, including two who sent text messages seeking help. Officials said four people were killed and seven injured. The collapse buried about 30 small houses in two villages after daybreak in Naga city in Cebu province. Roderick Gonzales, the police chief of Naga city, told The Associated Press by telephone that rescuers were at the scene and more were coming. It's not known how many people lived in the houses or how many were able to escape.

Pakistan's ex-PM Sharif freed after court suspends sentence

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, his daughter and son-in-law were released from prison Wednesday after a court suspended their sentences and granted them bail pending their appeals hearings. The Islamabad High Court made the decision after the Sharifs petitioned to appeal their sentences, which were handed down by an anti-graft tribunal earlier this year in a corruption case against them. The three were released from a prison in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

India bans instant divorce by Muslim men

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government on Wednesday approved an ordinance to implement a top court ruling striking down the Muslim practice that allows men to instantly divorce. The government decision came after it failed to get approval from Parliament a year after the court ruled that the practice of allowing men to divorce by simply uttering the Arabic word for divorce—"talaq"—three times violated the constitutional rights of Muslim women. Most of the 170 million Muslims in India are Sunnis governed by the Muslim Personal Law for family matters and disputes. The laws include allowing the practice, known as "triple talaq," whereby men can divorce by simply saying the word three times—and not necessarily consecutively, but at any time, and by any medium, including telephone, text message or social media post.

Ex-PM Najib Razak faces new corruption charges in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Detained former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak will face at least two dozen fresh charges of abuse of power and money laundering Thursday over the multimillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund, police and the anti-graft agency said. Najib is expected in court later in the day after police took custody of him from the anti-graft agency, which detained Najib on Wednesday over the alleged transfer of $681 million into his bank account. Najib has called the case political vengeance.

Doctor gets life term in Hong Kong over yoga ball killings

HONG KONG (AP)—An anesthesiologist convicted of killing his wife and daughter by placing a yoga ball that leaked carbon monoxide in their car has been sentenced to life in prison in Hong Kong. Malaysian citizen Khaw Kim-sun, 53, had become estranged from his wife, Wong Siew Fing, 47, and four children, although they continued to live together while he had an affair with a student. A jury of five men and four women found him guilty at Hong Kong's High Court after seven hours of deliberation Wednesday. Khaw was accused of putting the gas-filled yoga ball in the trunk of a Mini Cooper driven by his wife, Wong Siew-fung, on May 22, 2015. Wong and their 16-year-old daughter were found unconscious in the car about an hour after leaving home.

World

Europe's solutions to migration has created humanitarian crises

One of Europe's main solutions to migration—Greece's overcrowded, unsanitary Moria migrant camp—has suicidal children and conditions that a psychiatrist compared to "an old-fashioned mental asylum."

In this Wednesday, May, 2, 2018, file photo, children play inside the Moria refugee camp on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece. AP

In another heavily criticized solution to immigration, imprisoned men and women have been shuttled away from one gunbattle only to end up incarcerated on the front line of another, vulnerable to both trafficking and new abuse.

The jammed Moria camp on the Greek island of Lesbos and the dangerous migrant detention centers in Libya serve as a sober reminder to European leaders that their statistical success in curbing migration into the continent has spawned what the U.N. and others condemn as massive humanitarian failures. Deeply divided over how and where to control Europe's borders, leaders are meeting Wednesday in a summit in Austria.

Migrant sea arrivals to Europe have plummeted this year, but each journey now carries increasing risks of death or indefinite detention in squalid conditions. More than 1,700 people have already died on Mediterranean crossings this year.

Abbas Elnaser, an Iraqi who arrived in Moria about three weeks ago, said his 8-year-old daughter's health had always been frail and she was deteriorating quickly in the camp that was built for 3,100 but now houses over 9,000 people.

"She has problems breathing most of the time, she has problems in her lungs," he said. "The tent is surrounded by garbage."

In the central Mediterranean, Europe has effectively outsourced sea rescues of migrants to the Libyan coast guard, whose boats have returned 13,000 migrants to Libyan detention centers this year. In some of those centers around the Libyan capital of Tripoli, migrants ended up on the front lines of gun battles as militias fought for control of the city.

At one point in the fighting, detainees abandoned by their jailers for days broke out of at least one center but ended up caught in gun battle. A half-dozen people were shot, according to Ibrahim Younis, head of the Libya mission for the aid group Doctors without Borders.

As a Tripoli cease-fire brokered by the U.N. threatens to fracture, food for the detainees there is dwindling. Libyan officials complain that both they and the migrants have been largely abandoned by Europe. In the Janzour detention center, around 900 people were crammed into a space intended for half that many.

"We have difficulties in providing subsistence, difficulties in providing food, and difficulties in sheltering them," said 1st Lt. Jamal Hussain. The government, which runs the facility, refused to allow an Associated Press journalist to speak to detainees.

The official number of asylum-seekers and refugees in detention in Libya is around 5,000, but thousands more are believed to be captive in warehouses and other buildings, where there have been widespread reports of slavery, sexual abuse and other atrocities.

This month the U.N. broke its silence over Europe's policy of allowing the Libyan coast guard to intercept migrants, saying it was untenable and putting thousands of people at risk of being jailed indefinitely in inhumane conditions. Detailing allegations of torture, sexual abuse, violence and "nightmarish" conditions, the U.N. refugee agency said Libya doesn't remotely meet the criteria "as a place of safety."

In all, around 56,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with the U.N. in Libya and neighboring Niger, which have accepted millions of euros in exchange for European promises to evaluate a portion for resettlement.

But, critics say, resettlement simply isn't happening. A total of 657 people had left for resettlement in Europe as of last week, out of 3,886 slots promised over a year ago in 11 European countries and Canada.

Meanwhile, the Libyan and Greek detention centers continue to fill, with migrants and refugees waiting a year or more for a decision in their cases. That, however, suits many anti-immigrant populists in Europe just fine.

"Until the message is made abundantly clear that illegal economic migrants will not be processed, that boats will be turned back, thousands and thousands more sad and desperate lives will be lost in vain, all for your feelings of virtue," said Nathan Gill, a British member of the European parliament, accusing fellow legislators last week of being soft on immigration. "You're not really helping people."

If migrants have made it to the Greek island of Lesbos, they're already one step ahead of those trapped in Libya. But conditions are hardly better. Raw sewage flows out the main entrance in Moria, garbage piles up outside the containers where igrants sleep.

Luca Fontana, who works for Doctors without Borders in Lesbos, said a quarter of the minors there had either attempted suicide, had suicidal thoughts or were harming themselves.

"Only last week had to suture the wrists of a couple of unaccompanied minors, they tried to cut their veins inside Moria camp," he said.

Psychiatrist Alessandro Barbero of Doctors without Borders said Moria was as grim as "an old-fashioned mental asylum, not seen in parts of Europe since the mid-twentieth century."

Any hope of an easy solution to Europe's immigration dilemma has faded.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Driving lesson ends with car landing in a swimming pool

MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, Md. (AP)—A driving lesson went off the deep end in Maryland when authorities say the car jumped a curb, crashed through a fence and landed in a swimming pool. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue spokesman Pete Piringer tells The Washington Post the driver and passenger were uninjured Saturday, albeit soaking wet. He says the occupants were a man and a woman in their 50s or 60s, but it's unclear who was behind the wheel when the drive turned into a dive. He says one was teaching the other to drive that afternoon. The car landed in the North Creek Community Center Pool, which was closed for the season. Piringer says the man and woman were standing poolside, having extricated themselves, by the time rescuers arrived.

Missouri town gets new newspaper, The Uranus Examiner

URANUS, Mo. (AP)—Cue the giggling: A small Missouri town has a new newspaper called The Uranus Examiner. KYTV reports that the newspaper's launch was announced Wednesday, just days after GateHouse Media said it was shuttering Pulaski County's local paper, the Daily Guide. The new publication's editor, Natalie Sanders, led the Daily Guide before leaving in June to start what she calls a "fun" paper that will include local news and promote the tourist town of Uranus, which is pronounced the way any self-respecting class clown would say it. Uranus sits along historic Route 66 and is known for quirky attractions, including a fudge shop and the world's largest belt buckle. Luge Hardman, the mayor of nearby Waynesville, where the Daily Guide was based, says she thinks the "innuendo" surrounding the new publication's name will bring "public ridicule."

Police in New Jersey search for alligator on the loose

MULLICA TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—Police in New Jersey are warning residents about an alligator that's on the loose. Authorities say the 3- to 4-foot gator was spotted along Hamburg Avenue in Mullica Township on Tuesday afternoon. Police say residents should be careful letting small pets outside. Animal protection workers are helping police search for the alligator. Anyone who saw it is asked to contact Mullica police. It isn't clear where the gator escaped from.

Too soon? Fans find Red Sox division title banner in street

SOMERVILLE, Mass. (AP)—The Boston Red Sox have not clinched this year's American League East division championship, but a banner marking the accomplishment has already been accidentally unveiled. Boston-area friends Louie Iacuzzi, James Amaral and Randy Baldasarri say they found the banner on a road Monday morning after it apparently fell off a delivery truck in Somerville, Massachusetts. But the trio held onto the banner for two days, hoping they'd be rewarded with game tickets or a chance to meet their favorite players. Instead, the Boston Globe reports , the men brought the banner to Fenway Park Wednesday afternoon and returned empty handed. Iacuzzi said he always intended to return the banner and rejected accusations he stole it. The team can clinch the division if they defeat the New York Yankees Wednesday night.

Fishmonger offers lobsters some herb before the butter

SOUTHWEST HARBOR, Maine (AP)—These lobsters are going to pot in more ways than one. A Maine lobster pound is banking on using marijuana to try to make cooking the crustaceans a little more humane. The business, Charlotte's Legendary Lobster Pound in Southwest Harbor, is owned by a registered medical marijuana caregiver. The owner, Charlotte Gill, put a test lobster in a box with a few inches of water before marijuana smoke was blown into the box, WMTW-TV reported . The animal was calmer for the next three weeks, and she released it into the ocean, she said. Gill plans to use the new method at customers' requests, and then build a larger tank to sedate multiple lobsters at once. It's unknown whether science says pot smoke actually calms lobsters or has any effect on their meat. But Win Watson, a zoologist with University of New Hampshire, said the possibility is worth studying.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the Late

†Victoria Pangelinan Mafnas Concepcion

Affectionately known to many as "Nan Torang and Mom Pop"

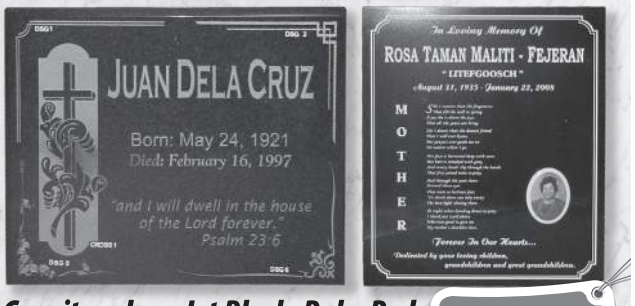
Would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our family, friends, and acquaintances, for the genuine words of sympathy, the unselfish assistance, and all the heartfelt donations you all have extended to us during our time of sorrow and need, but most especially for your presence, thoughts and prayers for our dearly beloved Mother, †Victoria. There are no other words, more virtuous, we can honestly find to sincerely and deeply express our most profound appreciation for us to extend to all of you, "UN SEN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE, YA NI NGAI'AN BAI EN FAN MALEFA NU HAMYU TODUS; THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU ALL."

In addition, we are respectfully extending a special thank you and heartfelt Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Pale Jesse Reyes and Pale Anthony Aguason (San Antonio Church) for their blessing and presiding during the Christian Burial Mass, our Techa, Mrs. Rosa Magofna (Auntie Ocha') for leading the nightly rosary. A special thank you are offered to the following people/groups: CNMI Hospice, Commonwealth Cancer Association, CHCC Doctors and nurses, EMS, St. Jude/San Antonio/Santa Soledad, Mayor Apatang and staff, families and friends for their most passionate and enthusiastic assistance.

Thank you very much!

The Family

TOMBSTONES
GRAVEMARKERS
LAPIDAS


JUAN DELA CRUZ
Born: May 24, 1921
Died: February 16, 1997
"and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6
In Loving Memory Of
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In Loving Memory of

†RAMON CASTRO VILLAGOMEZ

August 21, 1962 – September 17, 2018

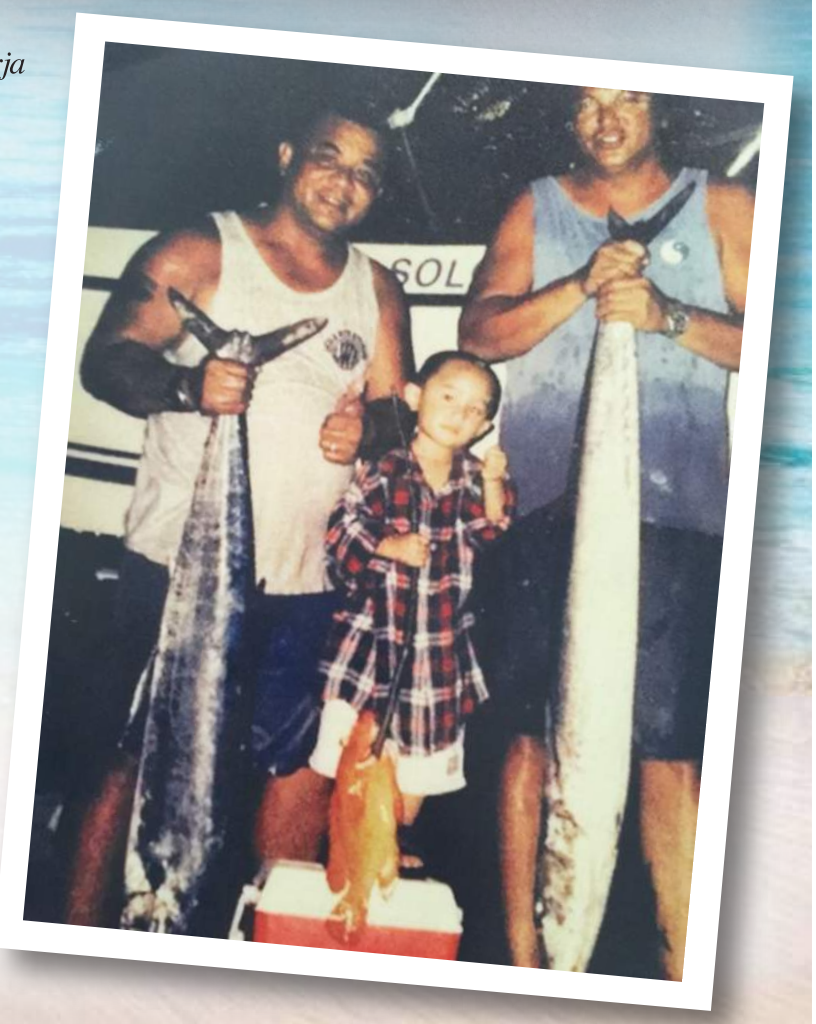
Lovingly known as "BO",
He was called home to the embrace of God at the age of 56.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father:	*†Vicente Seman Villagomez*
Mother:	*†Rosalia Castro Villagomez Mendiola*
Son:	*†Raymond Leonard Santos Villagomez*
Siblings:	*†Ana Castro Villagomez*
	†Maria Castro Villagomez
	†Manuel Castro Villagomez
	†Virginia Villagomez Kalp
	†Edwin Frank Aldan Castro
Godparents:	*†Juan Seman Villagomez*
	†Susana Camacho Villagomez
Father-in-Law:	*†Tomas Manalo Santos*
Mother-in-Law:	*†Juanita David Santos*
Brothers-in-Law:	*†Gregorio Santos, †David Santos,*
	†Leonardo Santos, †Oliver Santos
Sisters-in-Law:	*†Carmencita Santos, †Hermilina Santos,*
	†Lilibeth Santos

His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	*Etrocinia "Zenny" Santos Villagomez*
Sons:	*Aries Santos Villagomez & Wannida Tann Villagomez*
	Vincent Thomas Santos Villagomez
Daughter:	*Shalani Reizanne Santos Villagomez*
Siblings:	*Antonia V. & Tim Winters, Conchita V. & Roy Guerrero*
	Pedro & Peggy Villagomez, Diana V. & Tony Morton
	Frances V. & Beltran Muña, Rita V. & Milton O'Haire
	Vicente & Bennett Villagomez, Joseph & Monica Villagomez
	Juan & Maryann Mendiola, Florence Castro Mendiola & Alex Borja
Sister-in-Law:	*Dolly Villagomez*
Brother-in-Law:	*Vernon Kalp*
Godfather:	*Pedro Camacho Castro and Auntie Timm*
Sisters-in-Law:	*Susan Santos Castro, Nora Santos, Edna Santos*
Brothers-in-Law:	*Ben & Nida Santos, Salvador & Lilian Santos*
	Uktavius & Norma Santos, Samuel & Cynthia Santos
	Tomas "Jun" & Winnie Santos, Juanito & Len Santos



Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora de la Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00AM to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

07:00AM	**Remains escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral**
07:30AM	**Rite of Reception and Responso Service**
08:00AM	**Holy Rosary**
08:30AM	**Public Viewing**
10:00AM	**Final Tribute**
10:15AM	**Viewing and Last Respects of Immediate Family**
10:40AM	**Retrieval of Fireman's Badges**
10:45AM	**Closing of Casket**
10:50AM	**Family Acknowledgement**
11:00AM	**MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**
12:00AM	**Interment**

Your love, thoughts, and prayers are very much appreciated.

ZENNY VILLAGOMEZ AND FAMILY

Science & Technology

Grocers keep up with customers' shopping habits

By BRIAN FELDT
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

More grocery shoppers than ever before are using mobile devices to supplement—or in some cases take over—their shopping, with one Deloitte study finding more than half of all grocery sales today are digitally influenced.

As such, grocers of all sizes are investing large amounts of time and money in their digital products to attract or retain customers who are increasingly willing to shop at multiple stores to suit their budgets.

More than 18 million Americans have grocery apps on their smartphones, a figure that is expected to nearly double over the next five years, according to research from eMarketer. And about 18 percent of those consumers use apps to buy groceries at least once a month, a trend that is also expected to accelerate.

In essence, grocers need to capture customers before they even walk out of their front door to get to the store.

"If the shopper is ordering from their regular grocery store, familiarity helps with trust that the products will be the quality they expect," eMarketer senior analyst Patricia Orsini said in a study she spearheaded focused on grocery-app usage. "A bad experience, however, could turn consumers off for good, so retailers need to ensure they provide a good experience from Day One."

Not surprisingly, younger generations that are more likely to use online tools to make the most of their shopping trips are driving the trend.

"People just aren't the planners they used to be," said Josh Hogan, managing director of digital for World Wide Technology, which has helped develop apps for retailers including Papa John's and Panera.

"The conventional days of putting lists together and doing the weekly shopping are changing," Hogan said. "People are really going to the store two to three times a week now to figure out what is for dinner that night. So phase one is how can we reward them for coming to our store. And phase two really gets into how can we make a more fresh and frictionless experience."

TECH Q&A Telling a PC not to ask for a password

Q: My new Windows 10 desktop PC requires me to enter a password (or, in my case, a PIN or personal identification number) each time it starts up _ even though I set it up not to require a PIN or password. Every time the PC starts, I get a nature scene with a login box instead of going directly to my desktop screen. How can I get rid of these unnecessary steps during startup?

A: You can get rid of the requirement to log in to Windows 10 but can't bypass the startup photo.

How you rid yourself of the PC password requirement will depend on whether you use a "local" user account, or an online Microsoft account.

If it's not an online account, eliminating the PC password is fairly easy. Go to "Start," and in the search box type "netplwiz." When that name shows up in a list of programs, click on it. You'll get a menu called "user accounts." Uncheck the box in front of "Users must enter a user name and password to use this computer." Click "OK." In the next box, type your PIN number (or password) and click "OK." When you reboot the PC, you won't be asked for a password or PIN.

If you signed up for a Microsoft online account (the fact that you have a PIN number suggests that you have), you will have to make some other changes before following the instructions above.

When you sign up for a Microsoft online account, the setup process linked the online user account and the local one. So you must log on to your PC using your online password (typically your Microsoft e-mail password) or a PIN. You must sever this link before you can eliminate the need for a password.

To do that, go to Start, and click the "settings" icon (it looks like a gear wheel.) On the resulting menu, click "accounts." On the next screen, click "sign in with a local account instead" and follow the directions.

Once your Microsoft and local PC logins aren't linked, you can follow the previous directions to eliminate the use of a PC password. You will still need to use a password to access your online account. (For more about local vs. online passwords, see tinyurl.com/y9pothmd).

Q: I switched from using an HP Photosmart printer to using an HP Envy printer, then deleted the old printer from my PC's settings. Despite that, I keep getting an error message that Windows can't find the old printer. Then I tried using the "print management" menu to remove the driver software for the old printer. But Windows wouldn't allow it because that software driver is somehow still being used. What can I do?

A: Because both printers are from HP, the new one may be using the driver software for the old one. That apparently works well enough for the new printer to function, but leaves Windows searching for the old printer that more precisely matches the driver software.

I suggest that you uninstall your new printer, then try using the "print management" menu (see tinyurl.com/ybdyr8rk) to remove the driver software for your old printer. Once that's done, your PC should stop fruitlessly searching for the old printer. You can then reinstall the new printer on the PC; that process should also install the correct software driver for the new printer.

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Renault-Nissan to use Android system in its dashboards

DETROIT (AP)—The Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, one of the world's top-selling automakers, has decided to go with Google's Android operating system to run its dashboard information and entertainment features.

The change, which won't roll out until 2021, means that users will get Android features such as Google Maps, Waze and the hands-free Google Assistant, without having to connect a phone. They'll also be able to download auto-specific apps, such as those that find and pay for parking spaces, from the Google Play Store.

It's a sign that automakers are starting choose sides in infotainment software, deciding between developing their own systems or going with an established company that's familiar to customers.

Most automakers already let users link their Apple or Android phones to car systems through Android Auto or Apple CarPlay. But using the Android operating system will open cars to over-the-internet infotainment software updates and integration of Google Assistant voice commands into some car functions such as windshield wiper controls, the companies said.

JOINT 10TH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory and Always in Our Hearts

JOSE IGIBOR SEMAN
March 15, 2008

MARGARITA BENAVENTE SEMAN
September 22, 2008

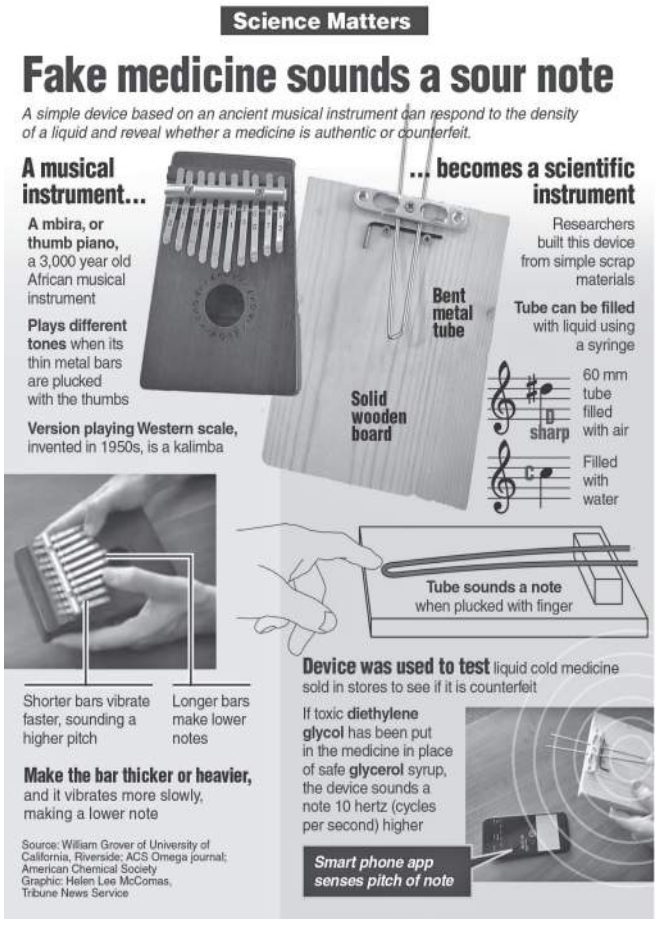
We, the children and family invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the joint anniversary our our Dearly Beloved Parents.

The Eucharistic Celebration will be offered daily as follow:

- Friday, September 14, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church
- Saturday, September 15, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church
- Sunday, September 16, 6:00 a.m. / 8:00 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. — Saint Jude Church
- Monday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church
- Tuesday, September 18, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church
- Wednesday, September 19, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church
- Thursday, September 20, 6:00 p.m. — Saint Jude Church
- Friday, September 21, 6:00 p.m. — San Antonio Church

On the last day, Saturday, September 22, 2018, the Eucharistic Celebration will be offered 5:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church. Dinner will follow immediately at the residence of Mario and Vivian Seman-Taitano in As-Perdido.

Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your presence, thoughts and prayers.
The Children and Family


Science Matters
Fake medicine sounds a sour note
A simple device based on an ancient musical instrument can respond to the density of a liquid and reveal whether a medicine is authentic or counterfeit.
A musical instrument...
A mbira, or thumb piano, a 3,000 year old African musical instrument
Plays different tones when its thin metal bars are plucked with the thumbs
Version playing Western scale, invented in 1950s, is a kalimba
... becomes a scientific instrument
Researchers built this device from simple scrap materials
Tube can be filled with liquid using a syringe
Bent metal tube
Solid wooden board
60 mm tube filled with air
D sharp
Filled with water
Tube sounds a note when plucked with finger
Shorter bars vibrate faster, sounding a higher pitch
Longer bars make lower notes
Make the bar thicker or heavier, and it vibrates more slowly, making a lower note
Device was used to test liquid cold medicine sold in stores to see if it is counterfeit
If toxic diethylene glycol has been put in the medicine in place of safe glycerol syrup, the device sounds a note 10 hertz (cycles per second) higher
Smart phone app senses pitch of note
Source: William Grover of University of California, Riverside; ACS Omega journal; American Chemical Society
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Widowed father of four writes about *Finding Good* in tragedy

By PAM KRAGEN
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Before she died of cancer two years ago, 29-year-old Sarah Stone made her husband promise her three things: to continue doing good things in the world, to take care of their four young children and to find love again.

Check, check and check.

This summer, U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Johnathon Stone, 32, self-published a short book called "Finding Good," which chronicles how he found and lost his soulmate and made it through. It ends with a 30-page, self-help journal where readers can use his daily motivational tools to find their own good.

That phrase is the motto for his family, which he calls "Team Stone." It involves finding something good on even the worst day.

"Finding good is my mission statement," he said. "I want to spread as much love and positivity as I can in a world right now that's full of a lot of hate and negativity."

In the book, which lists Sarah as co-author, Stone writes about how he and his children—11-year-old twins Alyssa and Allison, 9-year-old Madelynn and 5-year-old Jackson—have worked to overcome their grief and are moving forward with their lives. What it doesn't mention is Stone's recent fulfillment of promise No. 3.

Last spring, he became engaged to Wendy Maze, a single mom and real estate agent who he met last year. Maze happens to share Sarah's birthday, which Stone says isn't a coincidence. For him, it's a sign that Sarah had a hand in bringing them together.

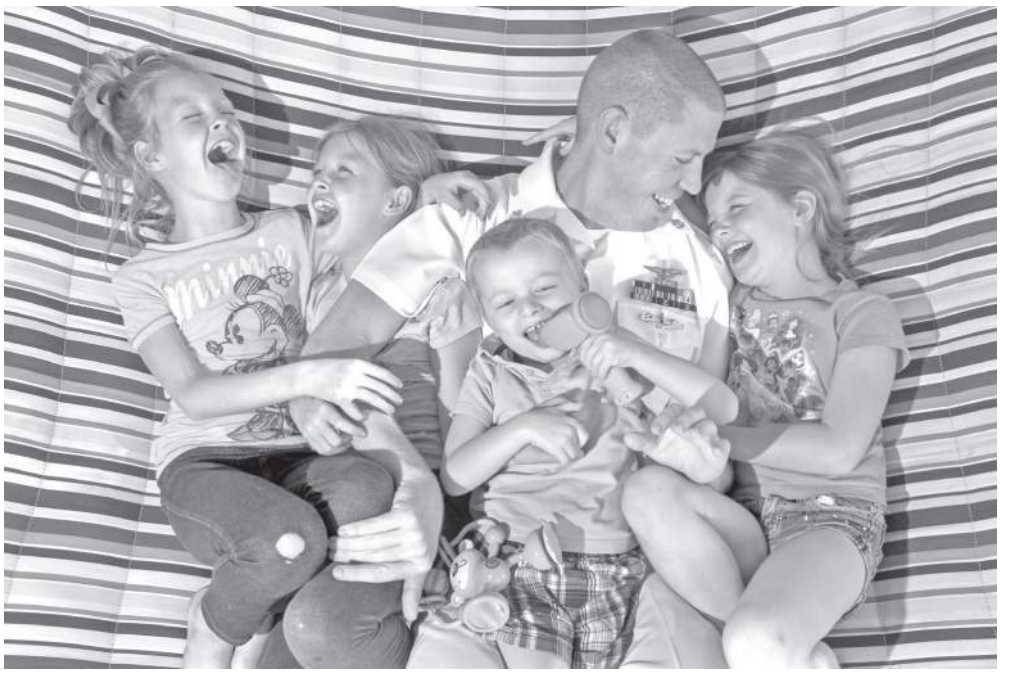
"Wendy is very similar to Sarah with her big heart," Stone said. "I feel blessed to have found two soulmates. Considering all the bad that has happened, I honestly feel pretty lucky."

One friend who's not surprised at Stone's sunny outlook is Jeff Wiemann, who helped the Stones foster, and later adopt, Jackson through the organization he runs, the Angels Foster Family Network.

"Johnny has a remarkable ability to focus on what is positive and redeeming in all of life's experiences and I admire his generosity in wanting to share this with others," Wiemann said. "I'm certain there will be more books to follow because Johnny has seen a lot and can offer great insight about how to live life to its fullest."

The Stones met at a pool party in 2003 in their small town of Clinton, Ill. It wasn't love at first sight. In fact, they didn't like each other at all until a chance meeting a year later led to a friendship that grew into love as they wrote letters back and forth. After he finished Navy boot camp in 2005, they married and moved to San Diego, his first duty station.

The book follows the happy couple as they struggled to make ends meet while they grew from a family of two to four over the next eight years. Because Sarah had grown up with three adopted siblings, she signed them up to serve as foster parents. In April 2013,



HAYNE PALMOUR IV/SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS
Navy Chief Petty Officer Johnathon Stone, now 32, photographed in a backyard hammock in June 2017 with his children, from left, twins Allison and Alyssa, son Jackson and daughter Madelynn.

they took in a newborn boy who was on the autism spectrum and could not speak. When the boy's mother passed away from an overdose in 2015, the Stones adopted him and named him Jackson.

That same year, Stone shipped out to sea on the USS *Essex*. When he returned five months later, he barely recognized his wife, who had become ill during his absence from a mysterious illness later diagnosed as appendix cancer.

By June 2016, Sarah was losing her battle and was in constant pain. That was when she secretly wrote her husband a "passdown"—a list of instructions to be read after she was gone. She hid the letter in a nightstand and only told him about it months later, on her deathbed at a local hospital.

That note, which he opened the evening after his wife's death on Nov. 1, 2016, is printed in the first chapter of the book and a portion of it is on her tombstone. It reads, in part: "I want it emphasized that I loved life and was passionate about my children; that I loved fiercely and was blessed to have married my best friend at such a young age."

Stone said surviving her death, with the help of grief counseling, was the hardest experience of his and his children's lives. With the support of neighbors in the military housing community he calls "the village," he got help with childcare, the Navy granted him an extended shore leave and he taught himself to cook family meals from YouTube videos.

In spring 2017, a friend encouraged Stone to attend a Tony Robbins leadership conference in Los Angeles to help him figure out how to fulfill his promise to Sarah to do good in the world. He couldn't afford the $2,000 tuition, but Robbins heard his story and waived the fee.

At the conference, Robbins encouraged participants to make a three-minute pitch to a stranger on something they felt passionate about. Stone turned to the man next to him and pitched the book idea that he'd been kicking around for months. By the end of his spiel for "Finding Good," Stone said the man was in tears. As he told and retold the story at the conference over the next few days, crowds began to grow around him and offer him encouragement.

"I realized it doesn't matter what you do in life. We're all human. We all have a story. It's my duty to tell mine," he said. "I went home and the first thing I did was start writing."

Every night after putting the children to bed, Stone said he would work on the book for 30 minutes to two hours. The opening chapter about Sarah's death was the hardest to write. Telling their love story flowed easily. He reserved the last section of the book for the self-help section, titled "30 Days to Find Your Good."

Each page has a motivational thought and a question followed by a journal section for writing. Stone drew these thoughts and questions from the daily "minute of inspiration" videos he posts on his Facebook page. So far, he's posted nearly 260 videos.

Last year, he posted one of these videos on a Facebook group page for people who had met while attending the Robbins conference. The video was about parenting challenges and it struck a chord with another conference attendee, Maze.

They started exchanging emails about the joys and hardships of single parenting—she has two daughters, ages 4 and 16—and they bonded through the written word, just as Stone had with his first wife. They plan to marry in 2019.

"We're now just this big happy blended family navigating life one day at a time," he said.

The twins recently started middle school and are getting good grades. Madelynn has begun taking part in her father's video updates. And Jackson is now training with a touch-assisted voice device that allows him to express his needs.

Accident ends couple's plan to have children together

DEAR ABBY: I am 15 years older than my boyfriend, "Spencer," and have two kids from a previous marriage. Spencer and I have been living together for the past 10 years.

I planned to have his child, but was involved in an accident and now can no longer have kids. He blames me nearly every day for having "experienced life" while he hasn't. He wants kids, and mine are mine—not his. He calls me ugly names now and is physically and emotionally abusive.

I love Spencer very much, and I feel deeply hurt. It wasn't my choice to be infertile, but he truly hates me for it. I get choked and pushed and have bruises the next day. Do I just give up and leave him after so many years of harmony?

This has only gotten extremely bad over the past year. My gut says he's involved with a girl at work who is giving him bad advice. She's 12 years younger than he is. I have caught them texting and talking together in our car at his job. Please help me with some advice.

LOST SOUL IN OREGON

DEAR LOST SOUL: I'll try. You should have drawn the line the first time Spencer became abusive. For the sake of your children—not to mention your own safety—tell him he has to leave. That's what he's really trying to do, force you to end what has become a toxic relationship so he won't have to take the responsibility. Because his priority is having children "of his own," he needs to move on and, frankly, so do you.

DEAR ABBY: I am NOT one of those fit, active, socially involved and sexy senior citizens. I had a hard childhood, was a busy wife and mother and, for decades, worked at jobs I hated. I spent years longing for the day when I could retire and read, read, read without feeling guilty about taking time for myself.

Now that I'm retired, my baby boomer cohort seems to feel we seniors should all be wonder women and men. Worse, my millennial children seem to agree. Is there a succinct and polite way to tell them all to go take a flying leap? I'm perfectly OK with being fat, happy and a source of entertainment for my grandchildren, who are—fortunately—too small to be judgmental.

OLD-FASHIONED IN OHIO

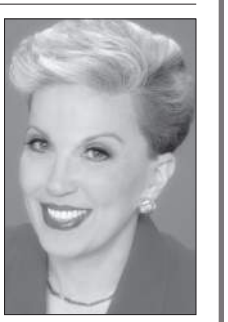
DEAR OLD-FASHIONED: Those who appear to be nagging you are well-intentioned and concerned about you. So be polite and smile when you respond that you know they mean well, but you have worked long and hard to finally be able to do exactly what you want to do—which is nothing but read, read, read and enjoy your grandchildren.

That said, a person does not have to be Wonder Woman or Superman to devote half an hour five days a week to her or his health by walking. You could listen to an audiobook while you do it. In addition, you could also do something fun with your grandkids that incorporates a little bit of movement for all of you. Just sayin'.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

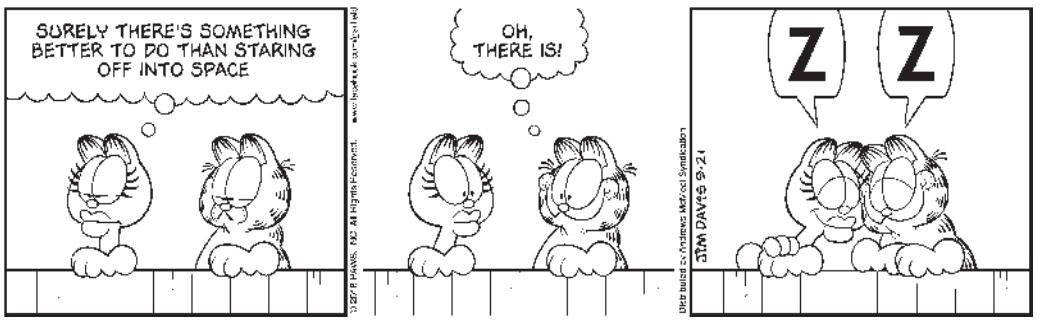
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YEP, MARS MAY BE A LITTLE DULL, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN EARTH.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
WE'VE GOT A WHOLE PLANET TO OURSELVES. BRAND NEW AND UNSPOILED. NO PEOPLE, NO POLLUTION.
NOTHING BUT RUGGED, NATURAL BEAUTY AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.
THAT'S NOT YOUR CANDY BAR WRAPPER OVER THERE, IS IT?
IT WAS JUST THERE A MINUTE! I WASN'T GOING TO LEAVE IT.

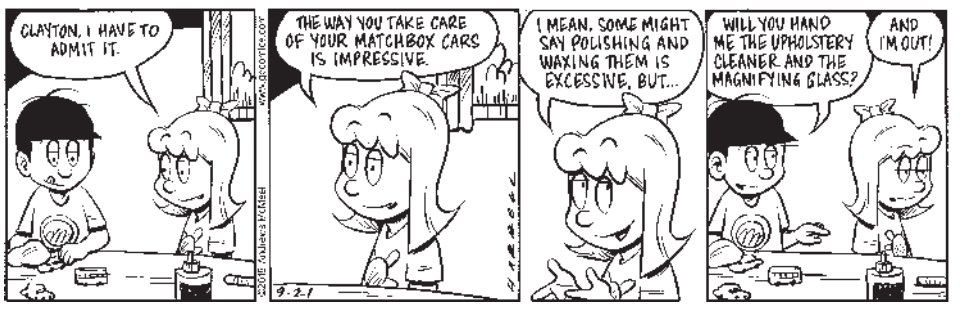
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON, I HAVE TO ADMIT IT.
THE WAY YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR MATCHBOX CARS IS IMPRESSIVE.
I MEAN, SOME MIGHT SAY POLISHING AND WAXING THEM IS EXCESSIVE, BUT...
WILL YOU HAND ME THE UPHOLSTERY CLEANER AND THE MAGNIFYING GLASS?
AND I'M OUT!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THOSE SQUIRRELS DON'T RESPECT MY FEELINGS.
THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SHUT THEM DOWN AND FORCE THEM TO ACCEPT ME.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING A LOT OF CABLE NEWS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

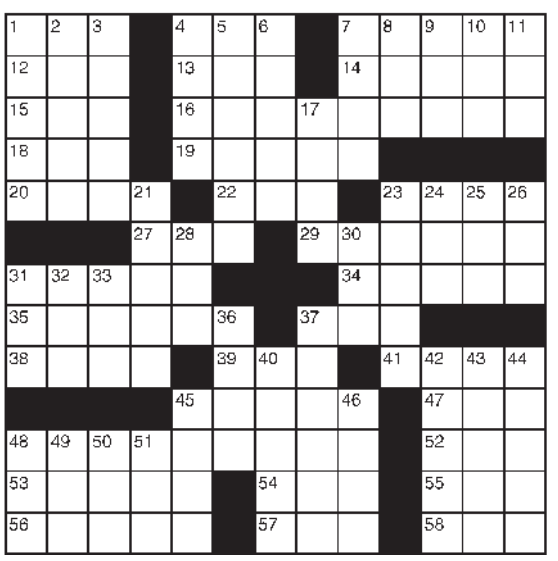
ACROSS
1 911 responder
4 Man-mouse link
7 Hopping mad
12 Sign before Virgo
13 Young dog
14 "Olympia" artist
15 "It's c-c-cold!"
16 Leader of the pack
18 Calendar abbr.
19 Pale purple
20 Trace
22 Just out
23 Casual talk
27 Yule fuel
29 Chopping spree?
31 Lowlife
34 Filled fully
35 Target at a fiesta
37 Sushi fish
38 Alphabet quartet
39 Guffaw syllable
41 Saucer-shaped instrument
45 Salon jobs
47 "Humbug!"
48 Postal delivery, informally
52 Gardner of film
53 Monte —
54 Spell-off
55 Gents
56 Signed
57 Away from NNE
58 In the style of

DOWN
1 Macaroni shape
2 "Thank you, Henri"
3 Civil wrongs
4 October birthstone
5 Judge's decision
6 Waldorf salad cube
7 Computer debut of 1998
8 Hit hard
9 Literary collection
10 — Aviv
11 Paris summer
17 Warmonger
21 Implore
23 James Bond portrayer Daniel
24 Chapeau
25 Chowed down
26 Actor Danson
28 Select, with "for"
30 Bat wood
31 IRS employee
32 Chest bone
33 Env. insert
36 Throat clearer
37 Fighting forces
40 Bedouins
42 44th president
43 Orange variety
44 Accra's country
45 Trudge
46 Passel
48 Biol. or chem
49 Indian bread
50 Noah's boat
51 — -de-France

Solution time: 25 mins.

E	C	O		N	A	G	S		S	O	P	S
M	A	P		I	K	E	A		E	R	A	S
O	P	E	N	C	A	L	L		P	A	I	N
			R	A	I		S	T	R	A	N	D	S			
E	L	A		E	D		Y	A	P			
R	E	F		S	U	P		P	E	P	P	Y
S	N	A	G		D	O	G		S	E	L	A
I	O	N		C		D	O	S		N	O	M
			G	A	L		O	C	T	E	T	S
W		N	G	T	I	P		U	F	L		
O	R	E	L		C	A	L	L	I	O	P	E
E	A	S	E		I	T	U	P		P	A	R
S	S	T	S		T	E	X	T		E	T	S

Yesterday's answer 9-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alfonso Ribeiro, 47; Nancy Travis, 57; Bill Murray, 68; Stephen King, 71.

Happy Birthday: Stability comes at a price. Look at your options and know your boundaries. Change can be good as long as you stick to a budget and don't allow anyone to interfere. Turn this into a year of planning and putting things in place. Look at the big picture instead of grasping for immediate results. Time is on your side. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 28, 35, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep money matters in perspective. Joint ventures aren't likely to go smoothly if you cannot agree on a budget that fits both your needs. Take your time and spend less to avoid an awkward situation that can damage a good relationship. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Bring about change that will improve your relationships, not hinder them. Refrain from exaggerating a situation to grab someone's attention. You'll be left backtracking if you can't deliver on the promises you've made. Stick to what's possible and practical. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take pride in what you do. An innovative approach to your work will help you overcome a learning curve. Don't let what others do confuse you or cause insecurities. Trust and believe in your abilities, not someone else's. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Make plans to socialize or to get involved in something you've never done. What you learn by observing others will help you bring about changes that will protect you from making a financial mistake. Share love, not your money. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional situations will escalate. Remain silent and take a wait-and-see approach when dealing with relationships that can influence your life and your future. Don't make assumptions; wait for all the facts to be revealed. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stick close to home, even if you are tempted to follow someone you love. You'll do better if you take charge and remain in control. Giving in to someone trying to get you involved in something risky should be avoided. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pick up speed and bring about change that will help you save more and spend less. Don't take risks with your money, health or a settlement that could go either way. Do your due diligence and be prepared to counteract. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look inward if you want answers. Someone else is likely to give you an inflated view of a situation and offer a solution that isn't in your best interest. Keep your emotions in check and offer a positive, healthy attitude. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't settle for something that doesn't sit right with you. Gather information and look for the truth before you make a move. Temptation will be difficult to resist. Consider the consequence of your actions before you proceed. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Facts coupled with intelligence and practicality will help you maintain a healthy and structured lifestyle. Don't worry about what someone else decides to do. Follow the path that makes the most sense to you and let others do as they please. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Your enthusiasm can end up costing you. Trying to fit in will lead to risks you shouldn't entertain. Don't feel obligated to do what others do, make a hasty decision or let anyone impose on you mentally, physically or financially. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make choices that will settle any differences you have with someone. By putting the past behind you, it will make it easier for you to move forward. Don't hide from the truth. Face facts and turn a negative into a positive. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thorough, passionate and intense. You are helpful and proactive.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3	9			
	5	6	4	2		
1					7	
3 8					5	4
4 2					6	7
	4				1	
	9	7	5	3		
		1	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	8	2	1	6	3	4	7	5
4	6	1	8	5	7	3	2	9
5	3	7	2	9	4	6	8	1
8	4	5	7	3	9	1	6	2
6	2	9	4	1	8	7	5	3
1	7	3	5	2	6	9	4	8
3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1	7
2	5	4	9	7	1	8	3	6
7	1	6	3	8	2	5	9	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

KEY LIME PIE **Solution: 11 letters**

F	M	R	E	K	C	A	R	C	M	A	H	A	R	G
L	I	T	R	T	E	P	L	A	T	E	V	R	E	Ⓢ
U	X	A	S	A	T	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	Ⓣ	A
F	T	S	W	E	B	E	P	I	C	E	R	Ⓘ	A	G
F	U	T	U	H	O	M	I	X	E	R	Ⓡ	N	W	R
Y	R	E	F	R	I	G	E	R	A	T	E	E	A	A
R	E	E	B	R	L	P	U	L	S	Z	D	G	R	T
A	T	O	S	I	U	O	P	R	T	E	U	A	I	E
C	W	I	G	H	L	I	E	E	S	S	N	R	C	U
L	U	H	U	F	P	Y	T	S	D	T	G	I	H	G
A	T	S	T	C	A	N	E	V	O	C	U	G	N	N
S	A	L	T	L	S	R	U	O	P	J	R	I	E	I
S	P	U	C	A	T	I	T	S	U	R	C	E	K	R
I	S	B	M	U	R	C	B	E	C	I	L	S	A	E
C	F	L	A	K	Y	D	S	R	E	T	T	A	B	M

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Bake, Batter, Biscuit, Boil, Bowl, Classic, Crumbs, Crust, Cups, Custard, Dessert, Eggs, Flaky, Flour, Fluffy, Fresh, Fruit, Graham Cracker, Grate, Heat, Icing, Juice, Layers, Light, Melt, Meringue, Mixer, Mixture, Oven, Pastry, Plate, Pour, Recipe, Refrigerate, Rich, Salt, Serve, Slice, Stir, Sugar, Taste, Vanilla, Vinegar, Water, Whipped Cream, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Walls

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **September 6, 2018** Closing Date: **September 27, 2018**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
SENIOR ENFORCEMENT AGENT	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2018-D
ACCOUNTANT	Executive	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2018-E
ENFORCEMENT AGENT II	Enforcement & Investigations	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2018-F

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Position:** This position is exempted from the CNMI Civil Service System per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) – Original.
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations.
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months).
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo.**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.
Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC
Minimum of four (4) years of relevant work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) BAKER
Minimum of three (3) years of related work experience. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, October 5th 2018.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: One-track mind

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$30**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$45**

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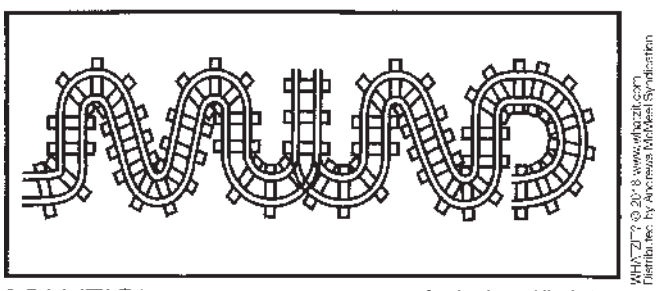

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Find today's solution in classified section

No Ronaldo? No problem for Real Madrid, Juventus

AP

Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo goes for the ball during the Champions League, group H soccer match between Valencia and Juventus, at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia, Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018.

GENEVA (AP)—Real Madrid managed to win easily in the Champions League without Cristiano Ronaldo. So did Juventus, after its superstar signing was tearfully sent off within 30 minutes.

Three-time defending champion Madrid eased to a 3-0 win over Roma on Wednesday, with Francisco "Isco" Alarcon scoring from the kind of free kick only Ronaldo got to take in his nine years with the club.

Ronaldo, making his Juventus debut in a competition he has won five times, also had a new experience—getting a red card against Valencia for tangling with Jeison Murillo.

Seemingly frustrated that Murillo went to ground too easily, Ronaldo reached down to tug or ruffle the defender's hair.

German referee Felix Brych did not have access to a video review but showed a red card after consulting his assistant behind the goal.

It was Ronaldo's first sending off in 154 games in the competition and left him in tears.

Still, Juventus went on to win 2-0, scoring twice from penalties despite designated spot-kick taker Ronaldo not being there. Miralem Pjanic scored both times.

Elsewhere, one of the favorites to dethrone Madrid this season, Manchester City, lost at home and Manchester United won away to further dispel its uneasy start to the season.

City was lackluster in a 2-1 loss to Lyon, while rival United had little trouble winning 3-0 at Swiss champion Young Boys.

Here's a look at Wednesday's games:

It could have been tricky for Madrid. No Ronaldo on the field, no Zinedine Zidane in the dugout, and facing Roma, a semifinalist last season.

But it was business as usual for the 13-time European champion under new coach Julen Lopetegui.

Isco, Gareth Bale—who seemed sure to leave if Zidane stayed—and Mariano Diaz got the goals.

Bale finished off an accurate pass by Luka Modric, and goalkeeper Keylor Navas kept a clean sheet after being preferred to new signing Thibaut Courtois.

Also in Group G, CSKA Moscow trailed 2-0 at halftime, but a stoppage time penalty from Nikola Vlasic made it 2-2 at Czech champion Viktoria Plzen.

A troubled opening half hour for Juventus in Valencia saw Mario Mandzukic and Sami Khedira miss clear chances before Ronaldo left the field in tears.

Just before halftime, Joao Cancelo hit the crossbar with a shot and was then fouled by a high boot to the face while chasing the rebound.

Miralem Pjanic converted that penalty kick, and scored again six minutes into the second half when Murillo was penalized for a foul.

There was a third penalty in stoppage-time, but Juve goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny saved Daniel Parejo's kick to preserve the 2-0 win.

Meanwhile, Paul Pogba scored twice and set up Anthony Martial for Man United's third goal in a comfortable win at Swiss champion Young Boys.

Though Pogba has been unsettled at United this season, his curling shot and trademark slow-trot penalty within eight first-half minutes suggested he is feeling happier now.

United had lost on its last two trips to Switzerland, both against Basel, but is in a good position to welcome Valencia in two weeks' time.

Old Trafford could also be denied a reunion with Ronaldo for Juve's Oct. 23 visit depending on the ban UEFA imposes.

In other results, with coach Pep Guardiola watching in the stand, serving a ban carried over from last season, Man City was surprisingly beaten 2-1 by visiting Lyon.

City trailed by two goals at halftime, when errors were punished by Maxwel Cornet and Nabil Fekir, a member of France's World Cup squad.

The manner of City's Premier League title win last season has persuaded many that Guardiola can add to his two Champions League crowns with Barcelona.

But the stadium was far from full Wednesday, and City only managed to pull one goal back in the 67th from Bernardo Silva.

The other Group F game saw Hoffenheim make its Champions League debut in Ukraine. Playing at its adopted home city Kharkiv, Shakhtar Donetsk got a late leveler in a 2-2 draw.

Garoppolo looks for consistency versus Chiefs

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Jimmy Garoppolo's first two games of the season have been a mixed bag, with his shining moments counterbalanced by mistakes.

A stern challenge awaits San Francisco's young quarterback Sunday when the 49ers travel to Arrowhead Stadium to take on the undefeated Kansas City Chiefs.

"We know it's going to be loud," Garoppolo said before Wednesday's practice. "I played there my rookie year (with New England) and it was rocking. So we know what we're in for."

Sunday's game features an intriguing matchup of two young quarterbacks who benefited from the expert tutelage of the veterans they once played behind.

After serving as a backup to Tom Brady for three seasons, Garoppolo was traded from New England to San Francisco and looked sensational in five games to close out the 2017 season, which led to a five-year, $137.5 million contract for the 26-year-old.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes soaked in all he could from Alex Smith as a rookie in 2017. Smith was traded to Washington in the offseason, and Mahomes has responded with an NFL-best 10 touchdowns so far, the most by a quarterback in NFL history over the first two games. He has yet to be picked off.

While the 49ers' defense has a challenge in slowing down the Chiefs' high-powered attack, Garoppolo and the offense simply want to avoid the potentially game-changing mishaps that they've been susceptible to over the first two weeks.

Garoppolo had an interception returned for a touchdown in the opener at Minnesota, a play on which receiver Kendrick Bourne ran the wrong route. Garoppolo threw three picks total in that loss and Alfred Morris lost a fumble inside the Vikings 5-yard line.

Then in Sunday's 30-27 victory over Detroit, Garoppolo threw a fourth-quarter interception that would have been a game-changer were it not nullified by a Lions holding penalty.

It came out later that rookie receiver Dante Pettis ran the wrong route on that play, but it was still an ill-advised throw by Garoppolo.

Being on the same page in the passing game is a key to avoiding those kinds of mistakes. And good communication can be a challenge when dealing with the crowd noise at Arrowhead.

Mavs owner Cuban donates $10M after workplace probe

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban has agreed to contribute $10 million to help further the cause of women in sports and raise awareness about domestic violence after an investigation released Wednesday substantiated numerous incidents of sexual harassment and improper workplace conduct within the franchise going back more than 20 years.

Investigators hired by the outspoken billionaire said there was no evidence to show Cuban knew of the most explosive allegations involving former team president Terdema Ussery. But the report faulted Cuban for not firing two employees when there were clear signs he should have.

The report was made public some seven months after Sports Illustrated detailed years of examples of a hostile workplace for women on the business side of the team.

Anne Milgram, one of the lead investigators and former attorney general in New Jersey, said Cuban didn't know many details of allegations because he was rarely in the club's business office. It is housed away from the home arena and basketball operations.

But when some issues were brought to Cuban's attention, he erred by not acting swiftly, the report said.

In one case, a successful ticket salesman wasn't fired after surveillance video showed a used condom slipping out of his pants. Years earlier, Cuban had been told pornography was found on the employee's computer, and Cuban warned him that he would be fired it happened again.

When told about the condom, Cuban was not aware of any further issues with pornography on the computer and wrote to Ussery, "Don't make a bigger issue out of it than it is." The employee wasn't fired until three years later after other issues came up, including with a new female employee.

In another case, Cuban didn't fire team website reporter Earl Sneed after learning of a second domestic violence allegation against him. The accuser was another Mavericks employee. Sneed was fired after the SI report.

"Once those decisions came to him, we found that it was incumbent upon him to get the full information in every decision he made and to get accurate picture of people's conduct and their misconduct," Milgram said. "It comes back to the question of you can't be half in and half out on disciplinary decisions."

Cuban declined to comment after the release of the reports. The findings were presented at a news conference with Milgram and Mavericks CEO Cynthia Marshall, who was hired by Cuban within days of the SI report. Marshall made a statement but didn't take questions.

Yankees stall Red Sox's celebration, again

NEW YORK (AP)—Luke Voit hit two homers off David Price, Miguel Andujar popped another one barely into the right-field seats and the New York Yankees stalled Boston's division-clinching celebration by beating the Red Sox 10-1 on Wednesday night.

Luis Severino (18-8) pitched seven innings of one-run ball, and the Yankees had no need for All-Star closer Aroldis Chapman on the day they activated him from the disabled list. Chapman had been out since Aug. 21 with left knee tendinitis.

Mookie Betts had two strikeouts and no hits in his return to Boston's lineup. He pulled a possible grand slam just foul in the ninth before grounding into a game-ending double play. The AL MVP contender sat out Tuesday after injuring his left side two days earlier, but came back to bat leadoff as the designated hitter.

The Yankees will try to send Boston packing Thursday with the AL East still undecided. The Red Sox lead the division by 9 1/2 games and entered this three-game series needing one victory to lock up the division. New York maintained a 2 1/2-game lead over Oakland for the top AL wild card.

Price (15-7) surrendered three homers this time, each aided by Yankee Stadium's short right-field porch.

Indians 4, White Sox 1

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis hit a grand slam with one out in the ninth inning and Cleveland beat Chicago.

Kipnis hit a 3-2 pitch from Ian Hamilton into the right field seats for his 1,000th career hit and was doused with buckets of water by his teammates as he conducted a post-game television interview.

The AL Central champions were held to two hits through eight innings before their comeback.

Phillies 4, Mets 0

In Philadelphia, Rhys Hoskins became the seventh-fastest player to hit 50 career home runs and Philadelphia beat New York to keep pace in the NL East race.

Zach Eflin and five relievers combined on a six-hitter and Odubel Herrera added two-run homer for the Phillies. They won consecutive series for the first time since July 25 and stayed 5 1/2 games behind division-leading Atlanta.

Seven of Philadelphia's final 11 games are against the Braves, including a four-game series beginning Thursday night in Atlanta.

Braves 7, Cardinals 3

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs, Touki Toussaint pitched into the sixth inning and NL East-leading Atlanta beat St. Louis to snap a four-game skid.

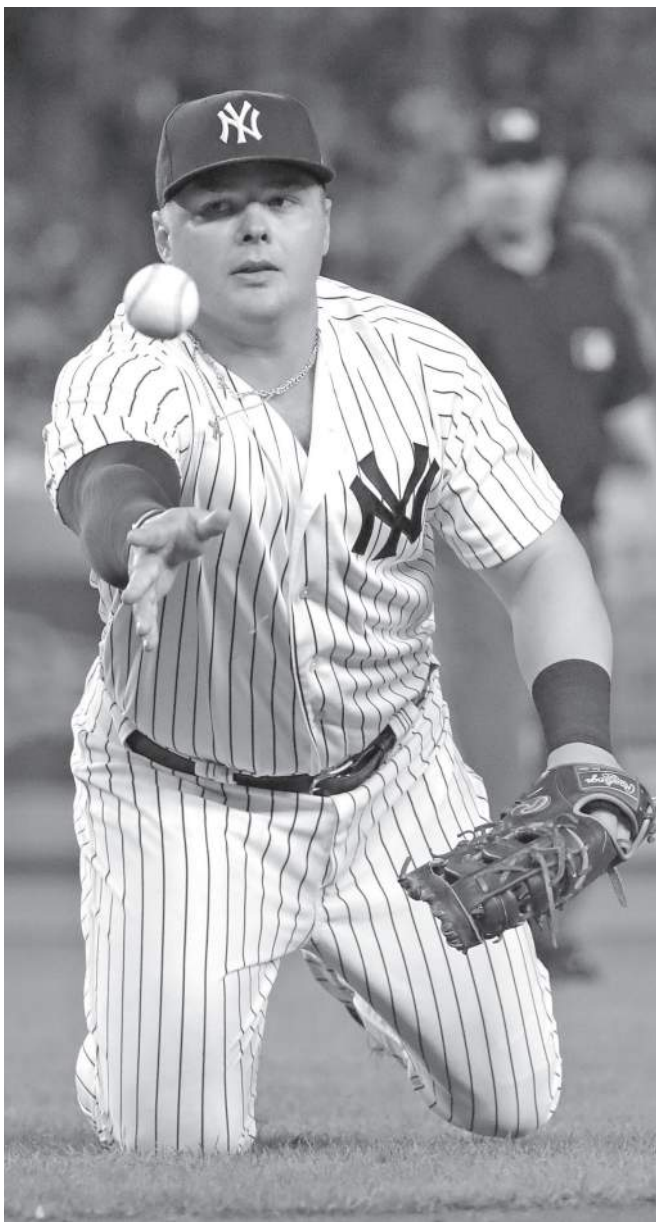
The Braves have a magic number of six over Philadelphia to clinch their first division title since 2013. St. Louis, which had won three straight, began the day leading Colorado by 1 1/2 games for the second wild card.

Closer A.J. Minter walked two to load the bases, but he struck out Jose Martinez and got Paul DeJong to pop up.

Diamondbacks 9, Cubs 0

In Phoenix, Christian Walker and Chris Owings homered off Cole Hamels, and Robbie Ray held Chicago Cubs to one hit over six innings in Arizona's victory.

Walker and Owings were part of a Diamondbacks lineup that featured only two regulars in the field — Nick Ahmed and Ketel Marte. The group did most of its damage against Hamels (9-10), who had yet to lose a start since joining the Cubs via trade from Texas on July 27.



AP

New York Yankees first baseman Luke Voit tosses the ball to starting pitcher Luis Severino for the out on Boston Red Sox's Andrew Benintendi during the fifth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018, in New York.

Brewers 7, Reds 0

In Milwaukee, Gio Gonzalez pitched six smooth innings on his 33rd birthday and Jesus Aguilar hit a three-run homer in Milwaukee's victory over Cincinnati.

Manny Pina also had a three-run shot and Aguilar finished with four RBIs. They helped the Brewers boost their lead for the top NL wild card to three games over St. Louis.

Gonzalez (9-11) was acquired in a trade with Washington on Aug. 31 in an effort to bolster the Brewers' starting rotation.

Mariners 9, Astros 0

In Houston, Robinson Cano drove in three runs, Kyle Seager, Mitch Haniger and Guillermo Heredia homered and seven pitchers combined for a five-hitter in Seattle's victory over Houston.

The Mariners took two of three in the series from AL West-leading Houston.

Rookie Matt Festa made his first career start on a bullpen day for the Mariners and threw a perfect first inning.

Rays 9, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Tommy Pham homered twice and extended his on-base streak to 21 games and late-surging Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep of Texas.

The Rays have won 14 of 17 games in September. They have 11 remaining and remained 5 1/2 games behind Oakland for the American League's second wild card.

Adrian Beltre hit his 13th homer for the last-place Rangers.

Twins 8, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Stephen Gonsalves threw six scoreless innings, and Minnesota pounded Detroit's pitching.

Gabriel Moya started for Minnesota, but was replaced by Gonsalves in the second inning, marking the sixth time this season the Twins used an "opening pitcher." Gonsalves (1-2) allowed one hit and a walk while striking out four.

Ehire Adrianza was 3 for 4 with three runs scored, Tyler Austin was 2 for 3 with two RBIs and two runs scored and Willians Astudillo was 2 for 4 with three RBIs for the Twins.

Pirates 2, Royals 1

In Pittsburgh, Chris Archer pitched seven strong innings, and Pittsburgh beat Kansas City to complete a three-game sweep.

Archer (5-8) allowed one run on six hits with eight strikeouts and one walk. The Pirates remain marooned in fourth place in the NL Central despite a five-game winning streak.

Felipe Vazquez allowed a walk in the ninth en route to his 35th save.

Orioles 2, Blue Jays 1

In Baltimore, rookie DJ Stewart hit his first major league home run and Baltimore used five pitchers to beat Toronto.

The Orioles bounced back a night after their 108th loss of the season, the most since moving to Baltimore in 1954. They remained three away from the franchise mark set by the 1939 St. Louis Browns.

Padres 8, Giants 4

In San Diego, Wil Myers and Freddy Galvis homered, Robbie Erlin pitched five solid innings and San Diego beat San Francisco.

Myers' two-run homer highlighted a five-run second inning. Galvis added a three-run shot in the eighth as San Diego won for the second time in 10 meetings against San Francisco.

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Woods proud to be back for FedEx Cup finale

ATLANTA (AP)—Tiger Woods is facing long odds of capturing the FedEx Cup and the $10 million bonus.

That's all relative this year.

Just having his own parking spot at East Lake, being back at the Tour Championship for the first time since 2013, even feeling lost during a practice round because the nines were flipped, were all reminders that his greatest accomplishment this year was being part of the 30-man field.

"I think the season itself has been amazing, to be able to have played this well," Woods said Wednesday. "I didn't know how many tournaments I'd play in, and next thing you know, here I am in the Tour Championship. ... To have come back from where I've come back from and to get here has been a pretty tall order."

He didn't make it in 2014 because of his first back surgery and his ill-advised attempt to return too early.

He missed the entire FedEx Cup playoffs in 2015 when he couldn't chip the ball onto the green from 20 feet away early in the season, and then his back started acting up late in the season. He missed all of 2016 while recovering from two more back surgeries, and all but one PGA Tour event in 2017 because of a fourth back surgery.

AP
Tiger Woods plays his shot from the third tee during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Aronimink Golf Club, Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, in Newtown Square, Pa.

Never mind that Woods is at No. 20 in the FedEx Cup standings, having started no worse than No. 3 in his four previous FedEx Cup finales.

This is one tournament where it's more about the start than the finish.

"It's great to have accomplished one of the goals I set out at the beginning of the year: to make it back to East Lake to be part of the Tour Championship and part of these top 30 guys," he said. "I've exceeded a lot of my expectations and goals because so much of it was an unknown."

The only thing left to cap off a remarkable comeback would be a trophy.

This is his last chance.

That still probably wouldn't be enough for Woods to win the FedEx Cup for the third time—no one else has won it more than once.

The better odds are with the top five seeds—Bryson DeChambeau, Justin Rose, Tony Finau, Dustin Johnson and Justin Thomas—who only have to win the Tour Championship to take home the richest bonus in golf.

Thomas has even more at stake. No one, not even Woods, has won the FedEx Cup in successive years. Thomas was runner-up at East Lake a year ago, which was enough for him to move past Jordan Spieth and capture the cup.

"I'm excited to have an opportunity to do something that no one has ever done, which is pretty cool," Thomas said. "I'm not sure if it was true or not, but I heard that no one had been in the top five after win-

MORE

From Page 32

leg, prevailed in the girls U18 against fellow SIS student Anika Snyder and Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo. Yang reached the finish line first in the boys 18 and Agape went on to sweep the Top 3, as Jonathan Xiong and Peter Wang came in at second and third. Liang, on the other hand, lorded it over in the boys U15, edging SIS' Kaden Church and Kuu Nishimura. In the girls U15, Xu led Agape's 1-2-3 finish, beating teammate Mei Ou and Zoe Tang.

Meanwhile, the third leg of the series will be held this Saturday at the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Kiya, starting at 7am. Then the final race or the 2018 NMA All Schools Cross Country Championship will take place on Oct. 13

GCA

From Page 32

6) and Agape 2 (0-7) complete the rankings, which did not include results of yesterday's matches.

Agape 1 moved back to the No. 2 spot after a similar two-set victory over Agape 2, 25-16, 25-22.

GCA 2 also climbed up to the ladder following its triumph over SDA at the Eagles court. GCA 2 won both sets in convincing fashion, 25-7, 25-10.

Over at the Mt. Carmel court in Chalan Kanoa, the Knights had their four-game winning streak snapped by the surging SCS. The visiting squad eked out a 25-22 win over Mt. Carmel in the first set, while the host team fought back in the second with a 25-21 triumph. Then in the deciding third set, SCS completed the upset after another close victory, 15-10. SCS notched its third straight win after dropping its first five matches.

Meanwhile, SCS was scheduled to face the leading GCA 1 in last Wednesday's game, while SIS collided with Agape 1 for their second meeting this season. Yesterday, Agape 2 was trying to break into the win column, as it was set to meet SDA at the latter's court, while GCA 2 and Mt. Carmel had their second faceoff. Results of these matches were unavailable as of press time.

OVER

From Page 32

swimmers. Palau Swimming Association, which in the past several years has been sending swimmers to Saipan to compete, was among the supporters of the campaign that aims to keep the 50-meter pool open.

"It is beyond sad to hear that one of the very few competition pools in all of Micronesia, is slated to shutdown at the end of this month. The Kan Pacific pool is the only 50-m pool in Saipan, which has hosted numerous international meets, Micronesian Games, and annual school swimming championships, and a location for the hundreds of kids who have gone through swim lessons and swim team in the pool's many years," Palau coach Billy Brown posted on the group's Facebook page.

"Personally, we go up with all of our team every March and train and race with both Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan, and other Micronesian teams from Guam, Marshall Islands, and Pohnpei. We have had many great practices, races, and even a water polo game in the pool, and have met many of our best friends we have today on that deck. What can we do to help? The best thing we can do at this point is to beg the government to keep this important facility going, as it is such a crucial resource and safe gathering place for the youth of Saipan. So, let's show our support and sign the pledge to help keep Kan Pacific, and the local swim teams afloat," he added.

Dolphin Club Saipan, the third and newest local swim group in the CNMI, also raised its concerns over the looming closure of the facility.

"Kan Pacific has generously allowed Dolphin Club Saipan (the swim program of 500 Sails) to use the pool to provide the public with free adult swim classes on Saturdays. This has been ongoing since early 2017. This represents over 1,000 individual learning hours. We have over 400 swimmers, with a comparatively high percentage of indigenous locals. It has been one of the greatest joys in my life to help Saipan adults learn to swim," DCS official Emma Perez said.

"Most of these swimmers do not come to us as athletes, but as individuals who want to be healthier. I do not know the solution to the problem of closing the pool, but I hope that this can be avoided and support the need for a pool for our community (all ages). Too many people have drowned already, simply because they don't know how to swim," she added.

Brad Ruszala, another signatory of the petition, shared Perez's concern on water safety.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Two Saipan Swim Club members teach a swimmer how to float during a lesson at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"My children began taking lessons in the same pool last year and they've learned a skill under the watchful eyes of their volunteer coaches. Water safety was our primary concern for enrolling our children in swim classes. Now that they've mastered the basics, they have the opportunity to hone their skills and follow the same traditions established in the same swim lanes of the CNMI's only regulation-sized pool," said Ruszala, who also used the pool when he was still active in triathlon.

"The loss of this pool would devastate the CNMI's swimming program. Our leaders foresaw the importance of the pool 40 years ago when they put a provision into the Kan Pacific public land lease that mandated the creation and maintenance of a public pool. It would be a shame if the shortsightedness of the stewards of our public lands allow the children of our Commonwealth to lose the only facility of its kind in our islands today," he said.

Two more signatories, Suzy Kindel and Nicky Nichols, discussed how the community is benefitting from the pool.

"Bill and Jeanne Sakovich created an enduring legacy (in swimming) for our island, and this pool has proven to be a tremendous benefit to our island's children. It would be a travesty if our gov't doesn't act to save the pool," Nichols said.

"I have used this pool for 29 years. Saipan is so lucky to have a 50-meter pool as those who have moved back to the states can tell you since usually all that is available for workouts stateside are short course/25-meter pools. The beauty surrounding our pool makes a workout so peaceful and enjoyable," Kindel added.

Torres meeting with DPL

Meanwhile, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told reporters on Capitol Hill that he was scheduled to meet with DPL yesterday afternoon to discuss the issues on the pool.

He admitted he knew about the online petition circulating and will talk to DPL to see what they can do after the Sept. 30 closure. Torres also mentioned the options that could keep the pool open. These include DPL taking over the management and hiring the same people who work at the pool, getting a new management company, and hiring a security to protect the property. ***(With reports from Jon Perez)***

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MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	103	49	.678	—
New York	93	58	.616	9½
Tampa Bay	85	66	.563	17½
Toronto	69	83	.454	34
Baltimore	44	108	.289	59

Central Division

x-Cleveland	85	66	.563	—
Minnesota	71	81	.467	14½
Detroit	61	91	.401	24½
Chicago	59	92	.391	26
Kansas City	52	100	.342	33½

West Division

Houston	95	57	.625	—
Oakland	91	61	.599	4
Seattle	84	68	.553	11
Los Angeles	75	77	.493	20
Texas	64	88	.421	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	84	68	.553	—
Philadelphia	78	73	.517	5½
Washington	77	75	.507	7
New York	70	82	.461	14
Miami	59	92	.391	24½

Central Division

Chicago	89	63	.586	—
Milwaukee	87	66	.569	2½
St. Louis	84	69	.549	5½
Pittsburgh	77	74	.510	11½
Cincinnati	65	88	.425	24½

West Division

Los Angeles	85	68	.556	—
Colorado	82	70	.539	2½
Arizona	79	74	.516	6
San Francisco	72	81	.471	13
San Diego	61	92	.399	24

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Malika Miyawaki dives for a return during their game against Marianas High School in the girls high school division of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

A Saipan Southern High School player receives a serve from Agape Christian School.

Two Marianas High School players go for a return.

Saipan International School's Maria Gregoire bends for the first touch off a serve from Marianas High School.

Saipan Southern High School's Cassandra Camacho serves.

An Agape Christian School player bumps the ball.

Saipan International School's Sally Lai spikes the ball, while a Marianas High School player attempts to block it.

An Agape Christian School player hits the ball.

No Ronaldo? No problem for Real Madrid, Juventus

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees stall Red Sox's celebration, again

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Over 6K sign petition to save pool

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2016 file photo, Tsunami Saipan and Dolphin Club Saipan swimmers enjoy their time together after completing a short course meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 6,000 individuals have signed the online petition calling for the continued operation of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

As of 7pm yesterday, 6,450 have supported the campaign that urges the government to take actions that would prevent the closure of the only Olympic-sized pool in the CNMI. Kan Pacific, which has been in charged of the facility since 1987, will stop operating the Marpi pool on Sept. 30, as its extension of lease agreement with the Department of Public Lands will also expire at the end of this month.

Signatories for the petition that Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Hiroko Tenorio spearheaded came both from off and on-island individuals and groups and even non-

See OVER on Page 30

GCA 1 still undefeated

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy 1 kept its perfect record in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after sweeping Saipan International School last Tuesday.

The Eagles soared to a 25-2, 25-8 victory against the Geckos at the former's home turf in Navy Hill to improve to a 7-0 record and remain on top of the team standings in the eight-squad field. GCA 1 is ahead by two wins against Agape 1 (5-2), while GCA 2 (4-2), Mt. Carmel School (4-2), SIS (4-4), Saipan Community School (3-5), Seventh Day Adventist (1-

See GCA on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy's Hye Jin Elliot serves to Agape Christian School 1 during an earlier game in the middle school division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League at the Agape court.

More than 200 race in second leg of cross country

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics

Better weather, better turnout for the second leg of the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Two hundred sixteen finished Series 2, surpassing the number (180) of student-runners that participated in the rain-soaked race in the opening leg. The U15 age group drew the most participants with 44, while the U13 division had 40. The U9, U18, U7, and U11 categories lured 39, 35, 30, and 28 runners, respectively.

In the boys U7 division, which had runners completing the nearly one-mile course, SIS swept the Top 3 with Finn Altizer placing ahead of Jose Sablan and Oliver McCallion. In the girls division, Saipan Community School's Allie Brasvell was the winner of the second leg and was followed by SIS' Maliya Benson and fellow SCS student Elita Li.

The U9 age group had the same one-loop course with SCS' David Ye and Agape Christian School's Barbara Wang topping their respective divisions. Joining in the Top 3 in the boys group were SCS' Daniel Males and San Vicente Elementary School's Christopher Cruz, while Dandan Middle School's Zoey Macaranas and Ha'ani Passi completed the podium finish in the girls field.

WHIT ALTIZER
Runners in the elementary school division head out to the course during the second leg of the 2018 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

In the boys U11 division, William S. Reyes Elementary School had a 1-2-3 finish with Paul Lizama in first place and Jerry Faimaw and Izeah Jolo coming in at second and third, respectively. In the girls race, Brilliant Star's Fiona Regan won over teammate Savita Sikkel and SIS' Dana Lee.

In the U13 division, Agape and Dandan split the top honors with Peter Xu prevailing in the boys race and Gracie Mendiola ruling the girls event. SIS' Doyegn Lee and Dandan's Alvin Hocog rounded out the Top 3 in the boys division, while Agape's Kristi Wang and Grace Wei did the same in the girls field. Students in the U13 division rounded the course two times.

In the U15 and U18 divisions, runners had to complete the course three times and Agape's Arthur Liang, Elizabeth Xu, and Kobe Yang, and SIS' Tania Tan emerged as top finishers. Tan, who missed the opening

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